FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT LETTER TO CAIRO PALESTINIANS DENIED

JN041550Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] An official spokesman of the Palestinian revolution command has announced the following: The Cairo paper AL-JUMHURIYAH today writes that brother leader Abu 'Ammar has sent what the paper calls a letter addressed to some Palestinian personalities in Cairo. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has not sent any letter to any Palestinian in Cairo for a long time. Consequently, the report by AL-JUMHURIYAH is merely a forgery and a fabrication.

Assassination Threats Dismissed

NC050908Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 5 January--PLO Executive Committee Chaiman Yasir 'Arafat has denied reports that he sent a message to Palestinians in Cairo about threats by Palestinians to assassinate him if he became reconciled with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. He said he had sent no messages to PLO members in Cairo and had not asked any of them to contact anybody.

In a statement to the Beirut correspondent of the Qatari newspaper AL-ARAB published today, 'Arafat says that talk about his assassination is ridiculous and that he is not aware that anyone is trying to assassinate him. 'Arafat calls on Arab information media to be accurate and objective in this last and most crucial phase of the Arab nation's struggle.

Answering a question about reports that Abu Salih, military commander of the Fatah forces, was the one who had threatened to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat, 'Arafat said: "Here is Abu Salih, ask him." In reply Abu Salih said that such rumors only serve the objectives of the Zionist enemy.

PLO STATEMENT: AS-SADAT ABANDONS PALESTINIANS

JN042040Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The PLO issued a statement today stressing that the president of the Egyptian regime gave up the Palestinian card in his meeting with U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The statement, carried by the Palestinian news agency, pointed out that As-Sadat will continue to make concessions until he completely abandons the issue of the Palestinian Arab people. The statement said that As-Sadat has shown all the cards he holds. Now the only card he has to offer is that of the Palestinian people. The statement focused in particular on As-Sadat's relinquishing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

PLO OFFICIAL HAMAMI ASSASSINATED IN LONDON

LI041906Y London Press Association in English 1840 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Palestine Liberation Organisation's chief in Britain, Mr Sa'id Hamami was shot dead today by an Arab assassin in his basement office in London's Mayfair--the third Arab to die violently in London in four days. Mr Hamami, 56, had always believed he would be assassinated because of his moderate stand on the Middle East--he advocated co-existence with Israel. But today he seemed to be taken completely by surprise as his killer cut him down in a hail of bullets and escaped into the busy West End. Mr Hamami was found with a cigar still burning between his fingers.

Commander Jim Nevill, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, who immediately took charge of the hunt for the killer, said the killer had made an appointment to see Mr Hamami. The offices in Green Street were cordoned off as finger-print experts got to work and police questioned witnesses who saw four young men running from the scene.

VOP: WEST BANK MAYORS OPPOSE BEGIN'S PLAN

JN3016437 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 30 Dec 77 JN

[Text] Palestinians continue to reject and ridicule Menahem Begin's plan to give limited self-rule to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under continuing Zionist military supervision. Fahd al-Qawasimah, the mayor of Hebron, has rejected Begin's proposals. In a statement to REUTER, the mayor said the Palestinians will not accept anything other than an independent state on their land. Mayor al-Qawasimah accused Begin of trying to legalize Zionist occupation of Arab territory instead of withdrawing and leaving the Palestinians to determine their own destiny.

Karim Khalaf, the mayor of Ramallah, said: We are witnessing events similar to those which occurred in 1947. To be frank, the aim of the Israelis is to expel us from our lands. He said that the Zionist enemy is still trying to expand his occupation of territory. The self-rule proposed by the enemy, Mayor Khalaf said, is the means to legalize this expansion.

Commenting on President Carter's statement opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state, Mayor Khalif said: President Carter has buried the UN resolutions concerning peace in the Middle East. Speaking to AFP, the mayor said the Americans are not sincere or serious when they speak about peace, because they have approved the plan of the terrorist Begin and have not expressed a real desire to participate in the settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Karim Khalaf said: Had President Carter been sincere, he would have recognized the PLO under the leadership of Brother Yasir 'Arafat.

Bassam ash-Shak'a, the mayor of Nabulus, has declared that the Palestinians will foil all Zionist plans. We will not accept anything short of self-determination and an independent state, he said. Commenting on Begin's so-called Israeli peace plan, Mayor ash-Shak'a said: This self-rule plan goes back to 1967 following the occupation of the West Bank when the enemy tried to entrench his occupation. But our people foiled that maneuver when it appeared again in the 1976 general elections. Thus, they elected their real representatives.

In this statement, which was made yesterday in Kuwait, Mayor ash-Shak'a condemned those who are running after the capitulatory solution, those who claim to represent the people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and whom As-Sadat received in the occupied homeland [during the Jerusalem visit] and later in Ismailia. The mayor said that those meetings took place on a personal basis. Those people currently touring several Arab countries represent only themselves, he added.

Rashad ash-Shawwa, the mayor of Gaza, has declared that he and the Gaza People oppose the self-rule plan. In a statement carried today by the newspaper ASH-SHA'B, which is published in the occupied homeland, the mayor said: Since his occupation of Gaza, the Zionist enemy has been trying to replace the military administration there with self-rule. But it has always clashed with the opposition of the Palestinian people.

The mayor of Bethlehem has emphasized that the people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip oppose the Zionist military presence, which the Begin government is trying to prolong through maneuvers. He also emphasized that the people of the West Bank and the Gaza sector support the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

PLO PAPER VOWS CONTINUED REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

JN311855Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 31 Dec 77 JN

[Excerpts] The political editor of FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH writes:

Tomorrow is the 13th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, which was ignited by the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, on 1 January 1965. Tomorrow the Palestinian revolution, ignited and led by Fatah, begins its 14th year full of confidence and strong in will and determination to continue revolutionary action until victory.

This day in the history of the Palestinian people is a day of revival. The Al-'Asifah forces have fired the brave Palestinian bullet amid difficult times, and the bullet has been transformed into outpouring veins deeply rooted in the Middle East and extending far and deep into the Palestinian territories, creating a symphony for the eternal presence and survival for this people. Hence, our people with their strong hands, which are not unarmed, and with their arms, which are not short or weak, today knock at the doors of history and geography alike, saying: Nobody will have a homeland or a state if the independent state of the Palestinian people is not established.

How wonderfully clear this people are, led by this revolution. The world has no choice except one, namely, an independent Palestinian state and the return of the Palestinian people to their territories. The Fatah movement, which has successfully led the Palestinian national liberation movement for 13 years, renews the pledge it gave to the Palestinian people in its first statement: Fatah is for the people, from the people and with people until victory.

Regarding the revolution and Fatah, the year 1978 will be the year of revolutionary change, and this is not a bet but our will. It is a waste of time to say something and behave differently. We say it strongly from a heart of suffering, not as a future slogan but a slogan for revolutionary action at present.

Our battle continues ferociously against our common enemy--imperialism, Zionism and agent reaction. The attempts which have been made to give the enemy the guise of a friend and a friend the guise of an enemy have collapsed. The gun of the revolution is not hostage to anyone, but rather is the shield of the Palestinians against their enemy.

In the fourth year since the explosion caused by As-Sadat's capitulation [the disengagement agreements], the Arab nation has passed its verdict on the friends of America in our countries, and this verdict must be implemented. The latest moves come from the remains of the wicked spirit engraved into the body of this nation by imperialism in order to spoil its existence and history and tear it apart. Fatah's vision of this capitulatory approach has been clear and honest right from the beginning. A capitulatory escape into the lap of the enemy will not achieve a settlement.

Begin finds in the big-stick policy the key to staying in the area. The Fatah movement knows precisely why the United States is for a big-stick policy in the Middle East. Entrenching imperialist control in our countries will be only at the expense of the Palestinian people. Therefore, the cowboys compete to firmly establish Begin as a ruler of the military base entity and a negotiator whose word cannot be refused in the hope that the Palestinian gun will be laid down. But this is impossible because the Palestinian revolution has spilled over the brim of the cup, for it is a revolution of a people determined to live and achieve victory.

Let President Carter and all the imperialist masters like Kissinger, Vance and Brzezinski know that U.S. imperialism will pay a high price in the Middle East, which they want to be their ranch. It will not be so.

The Fatah movement will continue the revolution in its coherent revolutionary approach to the Palestinian people and the Arab masses on the road of revolutionary change until all imperialist fortresses collapse one after another. What a terrible destiny awaits the guards of the imperialist interests in our Arab countries!

On this glorious day in the history of our people, we recall with gratitude the stand of the friendly Soviet Union by the side of our just struggle. We recall with much gratitude the principled stands of the Soviet Union in the face of imperialist plots against our people. Today we renew our friendship with the Soviet Union, the socialist bloc countries and all friendly countries and forces in the world which support the rights of our people to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of a sovereign independent state. And it is a revolution until victory.

PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR PRAISES TRIPOLI SUMMIT

JN051425Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Jan 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman, has affirmed that the convening of the Tripoli summit conference and the birth of the national front of confrontation and steadfastness constitute an important turning point on the road to consolidating the Arab struggle against the U.S. imperialist-Zionist onslaught. This came in a statement by Abu Mayzar made to the correspondent of the Algerian news agency in Damascus.

Abu Mayzar said that this summit was a practical reply to the U.S.-Zionist plot aimed at liquidating the Arab-Zionist struggle at the expense of the Arab nation and the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Abu Mayzar added: Thus, the importance of President Boumediene's visit to the Arab east. It comes as a true expression of national responsibility imposed by the current stage. This stage considers the broadening of the front of steadfastness and confrontation a national duty dictated by practical steps needed to oppose hostile plan.

The PLO official spokesman further stated: It has become clear since the birth of the national front among Syria, the PLO, Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the PDRY that the desire to confront the Zionist enemy stems from one's joining that front. Practical resistance to the U.S.-Israeli settlement--which expressed itself in As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem and in Begin's visit to Arab Egypt--must be based on joining the national front, strengthening Syria's political, economic and military capabilities and those of the Palestinian revolution as well as deepening the ties of struggle among national front members in the east and west.

Abu Mayzar added: U.S. and Zionist imperialism feel it their duty at this stage to put an end to the Tripoli summit achievements, prevent the growth of the front of steadfastness and confrontation as well as the liberation of all occupied Arab territories and the realization of the Palestinian people's national rights--their right to self-determination and to establishing an independent state on their homeland.

ARAB WAR INDUSTRIES SIGN PROTOCOL WITH UK

NC041657Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 January--A technical cooperation protocol was signed this afternoon between Britain and the Arab military industries organization. Under the protocol the United Kingdom will support the Arab military industries organization in the spheres of advanced military industries.

The protocol was signed on the British side by British Secretary of State for Defense Frederick Mulley, who is currently visiting Cairo, and on the Egyptian side by Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, the deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production and the chairman of the higher committee of the organization.

The Egyptian and British sides held a round of talks at the War Ministry at noon today to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the military sphere and the cooperation between the Arab military industries organization and British companies in an effort to further strengthen the relations between the organization and these companies.

The MENA military editor has learned that agreement has been reached between the Egyptian and British sides on the establishment of three joint companies for the production of the Swingfire antitank guided missiles and engines and bodies for the Lynx helicopter.

British Defense Secretary Frederick Mulley has expressed pleasure with his talks with Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, saying they discussed measures for military cooperation between Egypt and Britain and measures to support the Arab military industries organization in the future in order to establish advanced military industries.

ALF SECRETARY CALLS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

JN301205Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0908 GMT 30 Dec 77 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 December--The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has called for convening a Palestine National Council session in order to implement the Tripoli agreement. In an exclusive interview published today in the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary of the ALF, said that the serious and real implementation of the six points agreed on in Tripoli by the Palestinian resistance groups requires serious and quick work to convene such a session, whose aims would be to formulate a new program to determine the struggle duties which must be adopted in the present and future stages.

Ahmad pointed to the Arab situation following As-Sadat's visit of shame to occupied Palestine and to the Ismailia meeting between As-Sadat and Begin. He explained that one of the major results of the trip has been the formation of a central link in the chain of imperialist plans to control the entire Arab region. This control will not occur as long as existing national, revolutionary and progressive Arab forces are capable of opposing and preventing these plans from achieving all their aims.

KUWAIT

LIBYAN SECRETARY CONVEYS CONDOLENCES ON AMIR'S DEATH

LD041052Y Tripoli JANA in English 0818 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, January 4, JANA--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Jamahiriyah, yesterday conveyed the condolences of the general secretariat of the General People's Congress and the masses of the Jamahiriyah on the sad demise of Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sahah, to the new amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad expressed his thanks and gratitude to the foreign secretary and asked him to convey them to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the Jamahiriyah people from the government and people of Kuwait.

The amir of Kuwait said the sincere and heartfelt participation of the Libyan brothers in the grief of the Kuwaiti people reflected the close brotherly links between the two countries.

Shaykh Jabir specially mentioned the cable sent to him by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on the death of the late amir and said it has left a deep and lasting impression on the government and people of Kuwait. Later Dr 'Ali at-Turayki left Kuwait for Baghdad.

OMAN

SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE ARRIVES IN MUSCAT

NC041253Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Muscat, 4 January--Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre arrived in Muscat at noon today from Khartoum for a 2-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, was at the head of those welcoming him at the airport.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

Khalid Hosts Banquet

LD041900Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] King Khalid gave a banquet this evening at Al-Ma'dhar palace in honor of Algerian President Houari Boumediene, who arrived in Riyadh this evening on a private visit to King Khalid. Members of the Algerian delegation accompanying Boumediene were also present.

Talks With Khalid

LD051200Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] Saudi-Algerian talks began this morning under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

Present on the Saudi side were: Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister; His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; his majesty's adviser Rashad Fir'awn.

On the Algerian side were Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika; Ahmed Draia, member of the Revolution Command Council and transport minister; Finance Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia; the president's adviser Al-Ibrahimi; and the Algerian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER REASSERTS STANCE ON PALAESTINIANS

LD041910Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Prince Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, said the kingdom's attitude on Palestinian problem is based on supporting the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their land and to self-determination and their right to participate effectively in building the Middle East region and the entire world. In a cable to Abu Hisham, Fatah representative in the kingdom, his highness emphasized that the kingdom's attitude on the Palestinian problem has been firm since the time of the late king 'Abd al-'Aziz and during the era of King Khalid and his crown prince. His highness said that this stand is based on right and not injustice, and on UN resolutions and the logic of history. Moreover, it is also based on peace not aggression.

Prince Abdullah added that victory will be the ally of the Palestinian Arab people and their aspirations for construction, progress and prosperity.

The prince had received a cable from the Fatah representative on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the emergence of the Palestinian struggle led by Fatah.

NEWSPAPER ADDRESSES CARTER ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE

LD042340Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Press review]

[Text] Arab, world and local papers published today have for the second consecutive day been interested in U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to the kingdom and the results of his talks with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Crown Prince Fahd. These papers all agree that the path toward a just and lasting peace in the region requires a decisive and an understanding American position as the requirements of peace. They all agree also that President Carter heard the insistence of the responsible leaders of the Saudi Kingdom on the return of Jerusalem to Arab authority and on the complete withdrawal of the enemy from the Arab territories occupied by force and on the granting to the Palestinian people of their right to freedom, self-determination and to establish their own state on their land.

AR-RIYADH chief editor Turki az-Zubayri in today's editorial writes once again welcoming President Carter's visit to the kingdom and praising President Carter's efforts to show the depth of the links between the two countries which included his use of Arabic words in greeting those welcoming him.

He goes on to deal with the policies followed by former secretaries of state such as John Foster Dulles and Henry Kissinger. He then deals with the step-by-step policy by which Kissinger wanted to leave his imprint on the Middle East, which was followed by the trips back and forth which produced nothing more than the release of a few kilometers from the grasp of the Israeli forces and a promise about the forthcoming Geneva conference to give the Arabs their rights.

If there is one thing which has not been influenced by the step-by-step policy or has not changed as a result of the trips back and forth and has stood firm as a wall of steel it is the Saudi stand. The late King Faysal summed up our demand in concise and brief sentences centering on the Arab character of Jerusalem and the Arab character of occupied Palestine and the rights of the people of Palestine.

Thus, Mr President, when we state while you are among us a notable friend and guest all that we will say is that we are not responsible for the events of the region, both at present and in the future, but, most definitely, we are responsible for our first stand declared by 'Abd 'al-'Aziz, may God have mercy on him, regarding the Palestinian question and we still insist on the adamant demand of Faysal, may God have mercy on him, for which Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today shoulders the responsibility.

AR-RIYADH concludes its article by addressing itself to President Carter: Mr President, let us speak aloud to restore to the citizen of the region his confidence in events and in the intentions of the major powers through a mature and liberal conviction, of which you are aware, in the justice of Arab demands and the legitimacy of the rights of a destitute people. We do not need stands other than those deriving from a mature and liberal conviction to be able to confirm the good ethics of America's foreign policy. We seek an evaluation of our legitimate right and on Israel's intransigence which would be in line with your ethics.

YAMANI INTERVIEWED ON PRODUCTION, PRICES

LD031932Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Interview given by Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth Ahmad Zaki Yamani to unidentified radio reporter on 3 January in Riyadh--live]

[Text] [Question] The visit by President Carter comes at a time when the energy issue in the United States if of great importance. Could you clarify the kingdom's attitude toward production, in the light of Saudi-U.S. relations?

[Answer] The fact is that at present production is not regarded at the core of relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Despite this, we are cooperating with the United States in the energy sector in many fields; we do this inspired by our belief that (?it is in the interest of) the Free World and that whatever befalls this world will be fall us. All that we do basically stems from Saudi interest in the near and far future.

[Question] This is regarding production. With regard to prices and international level [words indistinct].

[Answer] With regard to prices, we have succeeded in freezing oil prices this year, which will assist the world economy to continue its move toward (?recovery).

YEMEN--PDRY

PRESIDENT ABOLISHES MINISTERIAL POSTS

LD041532Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali today issued decrees canceling the appointments and abolishing the posts of the ministers of state for local administration; for council of ministers affairs, and for presidential affairs.

The president also issued decrees abolishing the Ministry of Local Administration and establishing in its place a new department of local administration headed by a director appointed by the prime minister, to whom he would be responsible.

The president also issued a decree abolishing the supreme council for trade and supply, whose functions will henceforth be vested in the Council of Ministers.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AS-SADAT

JN041729Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, today received the Egyptian charge d'affaires in San'a', who conveyed to the brother chairman a message from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN SAN'A'

JN011825Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The YAR Command Council chairman received at 1030 today the PLO representative in the YAR, who conveyed to Chairman al-Ghashmi a verbal message from his brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

AL-GHASHMI INVITES BOUMEDIENE TO VISIT

JN041728Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, has extended an invitation to his brother His Excellency Algerian President Houari Boumediene to visit the Yemeni Arab Republic. The invitation was conveyed by Brother Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, our ambassador in Baghdad, to Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The brother ambassador also conveyed a message to Bouteflika from brother Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message deals with cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the interests of reviving Arab solidarity.

AS-SADAT TO MEET HUSAYN, SHAH, HASSAN

NC050748Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 January--AL-AHRAM notes in today's issue that in coming days Aswan will witness a series of important talks regarding the latest developments in the Middle East question.

When President as-Sadat returns from his visit to Sudan, this series of talks will start with a meeting between President as-Sadat and Jordan's King Husayn.

According to the paper, this meeting will be followed by talks between President as-Sadat and Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran, who is scheduled to arrive in Aswan next week.

The paper adds that President as-Sadat will also meet with King Hassan II of Morocco, who is scheduled to arrive at a later date.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID

NC041638Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Prince Turk al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the envoy of King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, ruler of Saudi Arabia.

Our correspondent has learned that Prince Turk handed President as-Sadat a message from His Majesty King Khalid about the results of his talks with U.S. President Carter. President as-Sadat briefed King Khalid's envoy on the results of his discussions with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

AMMAN PAPER SAYS AS-SADAT TO VISIT RIYADH

JN031100Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jan 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Text] Cairo, from AD-DUSTUR office--Arab sources here expressed the belief that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat might pay a surprise visit to Riyadh next week to meet with King Khalid and Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

These sources said that they believe that President as-Sadat recently received an invitation from His Majesty King Khalid to visit Saudi Arabia soon to hold an Egyptian-Saudi summit to assess the Arab situation and discuss the latest developments of the Arab and Palestine issues.

Official circles in Egypt refused to confirm or deny the news of President as-Sadat's forthcoming visit to Saudi Arabia. It is believed that the visit will take place after his forthcoming visit to Sudan. Informed sources said that the Egyptian President will acquaint Saudi Arabia with the results of the Ismailia talks, although they declined to confirm that President as-Sadat will visit Saudi Arabia.

It will be recalled that President as-Sadat has said that nothing at present warrants the convocation of an urgent Arab summit conference.

VANCE REPORTEDLY ASKS TO GO TO CAIRO 'IF NECESSARY'

NC050820Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0759 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 January--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has asked President as-Sadat to agree to him coming to Cairo during the Jerusalem meetings of the political committee, if such a visit becomes necessary.

AL-AHRAM adds that President as-Sadat, in reply, extended an open invitation to Vance to visit Egypt any time he likes.

AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEWS TO U.S. TV NETWORKS

NC051332Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1203 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 January--After U.S. President Jimmy Carter's departure from Aswan for Paris, President Anwar as-Sadat received the representatives of the three U.S. television networks--Barbara Walters and Peter Jenkins of ABC, John Palmer of NBC and John Sheehan of CBS.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with John Palmer of NBC:

Question: Mr President, why do you appear happy after your meeting with Carter?

Answer: I was indeed happy to meet with President Carter. Our friendship began when we first met in the United States. Today we discussed the entire problem and the reactions to my visit to Jerusalem, the future steps and the question of boosting the peace process. This is why I am really happy about my discussions with President Carter and the results achieved.

Question: You said you would discuss a specific number of topics with President Carter.

Answer: The most important thing is the meeting of the political committee in Jerusalem on 15 January. This is the committee that will include the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel as well as U.S. Secretary of State Vance.

Question: What are the chances for success or failure of these meetings?

Answer: Anything is possible, but what is important is that we have agreed that whatever happens we should sit down and talk to each other. Begin has said that everything is negotiable except the destruction of Israel. I agree with him on this and we will do our best.

Question: Mr President, you expressed surprise at President Carter's statement in support of autonomy [for Palestinians]. What happened during your meeting today?

Answer: At the beginning Carter discussed autonomy and I voiced my insistence on self-determination for the Palestinians, but we agreed that there can be no peace in the area unless we find a solution to the Palestine problem. I can also say that we agreed on a number of steps for the future, but I cannot reveal them now.

Question: Mr President, what exactly do you want from the Jerusalem meetings?

Answer: What I expect from the Jerusalem meetings is that we be able to announce the principles for a comprehensive settlement, which we were unable to do in Ismailia.

Question: Is this aim clear to all parties concerned?

Answer: I can say that this aim is clear to me, to President Carter and to Prime Minister Begin. The U.S. President has made every effort and we have arrived at an understanding and we have agreed on the need to continue to exert joint efforts toward an overall settlement. President Carter promised me this today. The U.S. President and his secretary of state, Vance, are making constructive efforts with complete honesty. As for us, we have no objection to the special relationship between the United States and Israel, but what concerns us above all is the fate of the Palestinian people under the yoke of occupation. This is why it is imperative to solve the Palestine problem; otherwise we will not achieve peace.

Question: Was your meeting with Carter today merely symbolic?

Answer: On the contrary, it was a substantive meeting, particularly since the military and political committees are going to meet in mid-January. We must arrive at a declaration of principles for a comprehensive settlement. Everything will thus become easy.

Question: Mr President, has President Carter told you anything about his talks with King Husayn and the Shah of Iran?

Answer: Well, Carter told me that he held talks with King Husayn and the shah. So far King Husayn has not played a role in the settlement, but nevertheless I hope that he will catch up with us after we are able to announce the principles of a settlement. At any rate, King Husayn will visit us next week.

Question: Do you agree with Carter's assertion that there should be normal relations between the Arabs and Israel?

Answer: I discussed this with Carter before my visit to Jerusalem. At that time it was not possible for me to do this but after the visit and after the reception I got from my people, it has become possible.

Question: Would it be possible to establish networks of communication between Egypt and Israel?

Answer: We have not got to such details yet but we will not disagree as to the nature of peace. Let us hope that 1978 will be the year of peace, as President Carter said today.

Question: Mr President, do you still have other surprises in store?

Answer: After the meetings of the political committee in Jerusalem something might happen, but we must work for peace with or without surprises.

The following is the text of the interview which President as-Sadat granted to John Sheehan, the representative of the American CBS television network.

Question: Mr President, did Carter approve the peace principles you want?

Answer: Our views were identical after our dialog today. What is important is that we have agreed on maintaining a speedy action in the political and military committee so that we can declare the principles of settlement. This is perhaps the most important item on the agenda of the foreign ministers in Jerusalem.

Question: Is there disagreement on the declaration of principles?

Answer: Absolutely not.

Question: Israel wants to grant self-rule for the Palestinians. Carter today used the term "participation of the Palestinians in determining their future." What difference do you see between this and the "right of self-determination" that you want for the Palestinians?

Answer: I believe we are close to each other. Therefore, I believe it will be possible to declare the principles of settlement during the meetings of the political committee which will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Vance. After the declaration of principles, all parties can sit with Israel provided that Jordan and Egypt are represented at the special session on Palestine on the basis that they were responsible for the West Bank and Gaza.

Question: Have you and President Carter managed to accomplish anything successful during this short meeting?

Answer: As for Carter's visit, I was happy to meet with him and I wanted him to stay with us as long as possible. As for the work, we managed to achieve success. Because we exchange views continually, it was not difficult for us to accomplish this in a short time.

Question: Do you demand recognition of the Palestinian people?

Answer: Naturally. Self-determination means this.

Question: Would this eliminate the great difference between you and Israel?

Answer: It appears that I surprised everybody in the world with my initiative. There still remain the vestiges of the past. I hope there will be a new concept in Israel especially after the meetings in Jerusalem and Ismailia. Israel must rid itself of its old ideas.

Question: How do you envisage the future steps?

Answer: After the issuance of the joint statement, all parties must sit with Israel. There must be joint committees, that is to say Israeli-Egyptian, Israeli-Syrian, Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian committees. In these committees we will be able to determine the stages of evacuation, guarantees and security problems.

Question: Who will represent the Palestinians?

Answer: Let us leave it to the Palestinians to determine this issue by themselves.

Question: Do you rule out representatives of the West Bank and Gaza inhabitants?

Answer: I do not rule out the Palestinians in the [West] Bank who left a note with me explaining their opinion, which does not differ from my own opinion, that is, the need to uphold the right of self-determination and the right to establish their state.

Question: But they have killed three representatives of the bank. What will you do now?

Answer: Nothing other than present a solution. Let us hope that we will find a way to limit this after the declaration of principles.

Question: What about keeping the settlements?

Answer: They cannot be kept after the peace treaty [mu'ahadat as-salam].

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with Barbara Walters and Peter Jenkins, representatives of the U.S. ABC TV network:

Question: Have the differences with President Carter over the Palestinian issue been settled?

Answer: I insist on the right to self-determination for the Palestinians. There is no disagreement today because President Carter has mentioned self-determination.

Question: What about the Palestinians' relations with Jordan?

Answer: We believe there must be a link between the Palestinian state and Jordan. Something in this respect must be declared.

Question: Are you prepared to accept a compromise as far as the right to self-determination is concerned?

Answer: I previously said that I was prepared to be flexible as far as the security problem is concerned, but not with respect to withdrawal or the right to self-determination.

Question: Have you reached a solution on the problem of autonomy and self-determination?

Answer: Yes, but I cannot reveal anything in this respect before 15 January.

Question: Is Carter going to inform Begin of this solution?

Answer: Yes, I am not in a position to reveal it before that.

Question: After the declaration of the principles of agreement will there be a problem on Palestinian representation?

Answer: If there is to be a comprehensive solution, the Palestinian problem must be solved. However, the PLO has displayed irresponsibility during the past weeks following my visit to Jerusalem. Nevertheless, whatever the Palestinians decide will please me.

Question: If the Palestinians join King Husayn could you solve the problem?

Answer: If the Palestinians choose King Husayn I will naturally agree.

Question: What can you offer the Israelis?

Answer: I have given them everything they asked for--recognition and peace. I am waiting for their answer.

I am also prepared to be flexible as far as the security demands are concerned. Let us ask: What are these? The most important of these demands is the guarantees. The military committee will discuss these guarantees.

Question: Do you propose that Egypt should guarantee nonaggression by the Palestinian state?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How?

Answer: We could propose a demilitarized zone under UN supervision. The security problem must be studied so that all parties, and not Israel alone, will enjoy security. As far as the Palestinian state is concerned, I can give some assurance.

Question: Do you believe you have the help and support of the Arab states?

Answer: President Carter today informed me of Saudi Arabia's support for me. I do not want them to support me publicly. Today, I received an envoy carrying a message from King Khalid. I am not eager to have the Saudis release the contents of the message.

Question: What about Syria's attitude?

Answer: Syria's stand is different and it confuses me when I try to explain it. Is it envy? I had a 6-hour discussion with Al-Asad before I visited Jerusalem. I say he is entitled to his opinion opposing the initiative. Nevertheless, despite his campaign against me, I will still welcome him to the Cairo conference when he finds the time is right.

Question: To what degree has the situation progressed following the Ismailia meeting?

Answer: We have leaped forward by 25 years. The Israelis, who had never contemplated proposing a peace plan, submitted one at the Ismailia meeting. Although the plan was drawn up under the shadow of the old Israeli concept, we have, however, the first Israeli peace plan.

Question: U.S. President Carter used the expression "withdrawal from territories" not "the withdrawal from the territories," do you agree with him?

Answer: Carter was dealing with the provision of the Security Council resolution. Carter agrees with me on restoration of the territories.

Question: How do you view the nature of the future U.S. role in the peace process?

Answer: The U.S. role is being emphasized more than ever before, particularly after my visit to Jerusalem. It is not reasonable to expect problems accumulated over 30 years to be solved in 30 hours. Therefore, we need the U.S. role. Carter has exerted his utmost efforts behind the scenes. He is exerting his efforts with sincereity. We also need a third party to solve any problems which may arise during the direct negotiations between us and the Israelis.

Question: What about the Golan?

Answer: We discussed this subject. There are no problems regarding the Golan, only some arrangements related to security.

Question: Have you reduced the hours of radio broadcasts beamed to Israel?

Answer: We were interested in strengthening our station. It appears that the engineers have advised the reduction of radio transmissions by 12 hours.

AS-SADAT SENDS LETTER TO JA'FAR NUMAYRI

NC3011177 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 30 Dec 77 NC

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 30 December--Dr Muhammad Hafiz Ghanim, deputy prime minister and minister for Sudan affairs, arrived in Khartoum today on a special plane for a short visit to Sudan.

Dr Muhammad Hafiz Ghanim told the MENA correspondent in Khartoum that he is carrying a letter from President Anwar as-Sadat to Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri within the context of the continuing contacts and reciprocal consultations between the two presidents.

Concerning the date for the convening of the upcoming meeting of the higher ministerial committee on integration between Egypt and Sudan, Dr Ghanim announced that an agreement in principle has been reached to convene the meeting on 15 January and that the final date for the convening of the committee will be set with Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and head of the Sudanese side at the meetings.

Dr Ghanim is scheduled to leave Khartoum for Cairo later today.

After the meeting, Ar-Rashid at-Tahir stated that President as-Sadat's letter to President Numayri deals with the Middle East situation and the developments ensuing from President as-Sadat's peace initiative.

At-Tahir said the letter also deals with President as-Sadat's upcoming visit to Khartoum, a visit which will give the two presidents a chance to carry out further consultations and coordination of the two countries' stands.

The letter also expresses the great appreciation of Egypt's leader and people toward President Numayri and the Sudanese people, who now stand on Egypt's side while Egypt is waging the battle for peace and who had stood on Egypt's side while it was waging the battles of war.

Ar-Rashid at-Tahir added that President as-Sadat's letter conveys the congratulations of President as-Sadat and Egypt's fraternal people to President Numayri and the Sudanese people, as they prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the independence which Sudan had achieved through its joint struggle with sisterly Egypt.

The Sudanese vice president said that at the meeting, Dr Ghanim praised President Numayri's role and his unswerving attitude toward Egypt and the Arab nation and expressed the love, appreciation and gratitude the Egyptian people feel for his excellency.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TO VISIT FRG IN 1978

LD041412Y Hamburg DPA in German 1357 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian President as-Sadat will visit the FRG this year. Cairo press reports go on to say today that Prime Minister Mamduh Salim also wants to travel to Bonn in August or September. As-Sadat and Schmidt will meet in Aswan tomorrow for a final exchange of views.

According to government spokesman Klaus Boelling, U.S. President Carter and Federal Chancellor Schmidt have had a "short, but nevertheless very intensive and friendly talk" in Aswan today. During the meeting Schmidt expressed his pleasure at the visit to Bonn which Carter intends making in the summer.

ITALIAN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT AS-SADAT

LD281723Y Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 22 Dec 77 pp 1, 2 LD

[Dino Frescobaldi report on undated interview in Al-Jiza with Egyptian President as-Sadat--names in parentheses as published]

[Text] On the eve of his meeting with Israeli Premier Begin, As-Sadat does not hide his optimism. He told me: "I believe that 1978 will be a crucial year and I am very optimistic that, after 30 years of fighting, we will reach an agreement that will bring peace." The Egyptian president seems very determined to continue on the course which he began with his trip to Jerusalem, and he is backed by public opinion in his country which is now comparing him to Rameses II, the pharaoh who brought a long reign of peace to the Nile Valley, and which, judging from the writing in the streets of Cairo, is demanding the Nobel Peace Prize for him. In the interview which he granted me in his resthouse, near the Al-Jiza pyramids, As-Sadat claimed personal responsibility for the decisions taken. He denied consulting other Arab leaders, particularly the powerful leaders of Saudi Arabia, before the events.

"I knew," he declared, "that the move was a shocking one and for this reason I did not want to make things awkward for my colleagues. Besides, I want you to know that Cairo makes its own decisions. Remember the decision to order the 15,000 Soviet experts out of the country. The responsibility for this was assumed by no one but me. It is up to me to take the decisions: If my people agree with me, that is fine; if they do not agree with me I will resign."

While awaiting Begin's visit, he outlined the strategy which he intends to follow. Regarding the prospect of persuading Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians to take part in the negotiations as well, he declared: "I sent all of them invitations to the Cairo conference (Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali confirmed to me that he sent the invitation to PLO representative [Dajani], who conveyed it to 'Arafat--CORRIERE DELLA SERA editor's note). But the Soviet Union maneuvered once more and put pressure on the Palestinians, who refused to come to Cairo. Fine! It is up to them to make their own decisions, but I will carry on to the end--that is what I say. We will prepare ourselves for Geneva. When the preparations are over, I will continue to strive for a comprehensive agreement (synonymous with global) in Geneva, not a separate agreement between Israel and myself. Otherwise I would have done so a long time ago and there would have been no need for my visit to Jerusalem.

When we have agreed on the principles of a global agreement in Geneva, I will convene an Arab summit to which I will submit these principles. After which each party will be able to start negotiating with Israel on withdrawal and other topics."

The Egyptian president also spoke of the attitude adopted by the governments of the so-called Tripoli "rejection front." He said: "We can understand some extremist (governments) because they are thousands of miles away from Israel; they can be as extremist as they like. But Syria and the Palestinians really should reexamine their opposition. I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic that they will do so because it is entirely up to them. However, I am optimistic that I will be in a position to call an Arab summit to submit to it the principles of an agreement."

As-Sadat denied that he already had his peace initiative in mind in the summer during his conflict with Libya ("I taught Al-Qadhdhafi a lesson," he said then). "Everything happened after that," he told me. "When we had that incident with Libya we were still exchanging views with Carter on a certain type of meeting to prepare for Geneva. Carter's personal letter, which was the starting point of the affair, arrived after that incident." On the question of the role of Saudi Arabia, the great power of the Arab world which had a decisive role with its oil weapon in the 1973 war and which still finances Arab countries and movements (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the PLO), As-Sadat declared: "Of course, (the Saudi Arabians) have a very important role in that the West wants assurances on the energy problem and Saudi Arabia is an important partner controlling 60 percent of all the world's reserves. I can say that they play their role very cleverly. (As for the possibility of the Saudi Arabians with their financial resources having a political influence) I cannot speak for others, As-Sadat continued, but as far as Egypt is concerned they do not. We value our independence, they value theirs and respect ours. Therefore, they have no influence in the real sense of the word, but I cannot speak for others. They certainly do have an influence on other parties.""

According to observers, the most important fact to come out of recent weeks in Egypt following As-Sadat's "grand gesture" has been the discovery of a moderate majority which wants peace. After 30 years of considerable sacrifices, there has been a marked swing in public opinion toward peace.

In other words, they claim that a "peace movement" has now been set in motion in the country for which the point of no return in the negotiations could only be passed if Begin puts forward serious and negotiable proposals. According to As-Sadat, the United States still holds 99 percent of the cards. I asked him what role Europe has to play in this case. The president thinks Europe has two roles to play: "One," he explained, "should be played now and consists in forcing Israel to see reason and reassuring Israel of its future. In the second stage, Western Europe should play its part in the security system, for example in the UN forces, in immediate alert stations, in surveillance of demilitarized zones on a reciprocal basis and even in political guarantees. "I know that my friend Giscard d'Estaing is ready to do this," As-Sadat continued, "and even Callaghan is prepared to do so. As for Schmidt, he has told me that he will not make any material contribution because of his position, but even he is prepared to join in on a political level. Therefore, I think that Europe too has a part to play. The form in which the European leaders choose to make their contribution (whether individually or within the framework of the EEC) is their affair. I have no objections, but they ought to play their part."

I pointed out to As-Sadat that he has never mentioned Italy. In recent times our country seems to have given up its presence in the most important Middle East country by progressively dismantling its institutions, including diplomatic institutions. "If I have not mentioned Italy," As-Sadat told me, "it is because it seems obvious to me that Italy could play a part." Then he pointed out that Egyptians remember that "when we were boycotted by all European countries after the 1967 war, Italy did not join in. We will never forget that; it means a lot to us."

CAIRO MEDIA COMMENT ON CARTER, AS-SADAT MEETING

Radio Views Statements

NC042030Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

["We and the World" program]

[Text] U.S. President Carter's discussions with President Anwar as-Sadat in Aswan dealt with several important and fundamental points on the road to peace, the road which began with Egypt's initiative.

Whereas the primary obstacle in the way to peace is Menahem Begin's proposals on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip--proposals which Egypt has duly answered--the U.S. stand on the subject has become the center of attention for international observers. After hearing President Jimmy Carter's statement to reporters, the observers put stress on his statement that the Palestinian issue must be resolved in a way that recognizes the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and enables them to participate in the determination of their own future.

Although the exact substantive meaning of these words is not clear, it is certain that Carter meant that the Palestinians have the right to participate in determining their future, something which Menahem Begin has so far rejected.

Begin failed to raise his proposals to the level of international justice, which would achieve a true peace, and, in particular, recognizes the right to self-determination in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, territories seized by force in 1967. UN Resolution 242 of 1967 emphasizes the inadmissability of the acquisition of territory by force.

Carter's statement also affirmed UN Resolutions 242 and 338 of 1973. These two resolutions, in our opinion, do not approve of the acquisition of territory by force.

If the United States understands, as it seems to, the true substance of these two resolutions, then Washington must pressure Israel into following the path to peace which calls for the restoration of the usurped territory and rights and the restoration of the situation in relation to these two subjects to the pre-June-1967 status.

Failure to pressure Israel is interpreted by the Israeli Government as support for its stand. If Israel does not follow the proper path to peace--a path opened by President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative--Israel will lose the opportunity for peace and the whole world might lose out if this opportunity is missed.

Following his meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat, President Carter said that peace means more than just ending the state of belligerency and that there must be agreement on secure and recognized borders for all parties. This means that peace cannot be achieved by merely ending the state of war, but, before that, by restoring all rights which were seized by force and by guaranteeing the borders of all parties, not Israel's borders alone.

The peace process begun by President as-Sadat's initiative is based on international justice. It will tolerate no debate over the basic principles of international laws calling for the right to self-determination and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

The Palestinian issue must be solved on the basis of these two principles. Egypt considers the solution to the Palestinian issue as fundamental to solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We would like to refer to President as-Sadat's answer to the reports who asked whether the Palestinians would have some rights in the future. President as-Sadat corrected them in his response. He asked: Why some rights? The Palestinian people are entitled to all the rights.

This means that Egypt will not agree to minimizing the rights of the Palestinian people and will not accept any solution that does not grant the Palestinians their legitimate rights.

Newspapers Comment

NC050813Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Reports of the talks held yesterday in Aswan between President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. President Carter occupy a prominent place in today's morning papers.

The papers focus on President as-Sadat's statement that the Egyptian and American views were identical and that agreement was reached on certain steps to give a thrust to the peace process.

The three papers give prominence to President Carter's statement that the Plaestinian question should be solved in all aspects and that the Palestinians should participate in determining their future.

Commenting on the U.S. President's statement in which he affirmed the need to continue the momentum to establish peace in the Middle East, Al-AKHBAR believes that the United States should play an effective role in discharging this duty which was announced by President Carter and that it should exert efforts with Israel for recognition of rights and to attain a lasting and comprehensive peace settlement.

In today's editorial, the paper stresses that the As-Sadat-Carter talks have placed the situation in an important stage of earnest efforts in order to attain peace based on justice and that the desires are sincerely directed toward this. It is essential that everyone should understand, and that the United States itself should understand, that time is an important factor in the situation and in the moves to push for a just and lasting peace.

AL-AHRAM, on the other hand, views the clearly defined prepared statement which was delivered by President Carter as a clear affirmation of a commitment to an attitude which does not tolerate interpretations. It also affirms the desire to lend some clarity to the American attitude following the uncertainties surrounding it. AL-AHRAM points out in its opinion column today that U.S. policy can play a more positive role in pushing the efforts for a just peace toward their goal. But if it fails to carry out this role at this stage, then it should at least aid in providing the appropriate circumstances in order to attain a just settlement which, as has been proved, cannot be achieved without the solution of the Palestinian problem. Carter admitted as much in his prepared statement.

AL-AKHBAR Chief Editor

NC050815Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Writing in AL-AKHBAR, Musa Sabri says: The Aswan discussions dealt with the following facts:

1. If we want a real and lasting peace, then the Palestinian problem must be dealt with in a positive manner. This problem must not be circumvented and there should be no evasion of radical solutions.

2. There can be no peace if the principle of total withdrawal from the occupied territories is not upheld. It is known that since the issuance of Resolution 242, official opinion in the United States has supported total withdrawal with minor changes in the borders of the West Bank. There has been no change in the U.S. official stand in this regard.

3. The Israeli leaders must realize that the old concepts which they reiterated before President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem are no longer beneficial after the visit and that the peace talks will not succeed if these concepts continue.

4. The United States must assume a positive and effective role to change these concepts. It will be of no benefit if the United States continues its role as an observer that is satisfied with encouraging both sides to meet. It is time for this positive U.S. role to materialize.

5. Israel has exploited a previous proposal by Brezinski on granting self-rule to the Palestinians on the basis that it would eventually lead to exercising the right of self-determination. Begin exploited the title "self-rule" and then placed articles underneath that would only lead to the legalization of the Israeli occupation.

AL-AKHBAR's chief editor then deals with the statement the U.S. President made at Aswan airport after his talks with As-Sadat. The chief editor says: The statement does not clearly stipulate the right of the Palestinian people to determine their fate. However, it uses the term "the participation of the Palestinians in determining their fate." Thus, the statement sets aside the idea of self-rule as presented by Begin in his plan and draws close to the idea of the right of self-determination as demanded by Egypt.

After reviewing the situation following the discussions between As-Sadat and Carter in Aswan, which are considered a new strong thrust to the peace talks, the writer says: We must await developments and see what Israel's stand will be on the new steps on which Presidents as-Sadat and Carter have agreed. We have no right to anticipate the results before this.

Concluding, Musa Sabri emphasizes that the road to peace is difficult and long but we have the right to hope, as Carter's statement says, that 1978 will be the year of durable and comprehensive peace.

FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL ON PALESTINIANS RIGHTS

NC311542Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 77 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met today with U.S. ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. The ambassador said that the discussions at this meeting dealt with questions connected with the meeting of the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee in Jerusalem. He added that he provided the foreign minister with the text of the statements which U.S. President Jimmy Carter made yesterday and 2 days ago.

The ambassador said that President Carter has an open invitation to visit Egypt but that he has not yet decided on the date of the visit.

Ibrahim Kamil said he emphasized to the U.S. ambassador Egypt's point of view, as explained by President as-Sadat, regarding the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

The radio correspondent reports, regarding President Carter's visit, that Egypt welcomes such a visit any time.

On the other hand, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil communicated Egypt's view on developments in the Middle East to the ambassadors of Morocco, Bahrain and Qatar.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil told the radio correspondent: It must be clear that the Palestinian people's right to determine their future is an inalienable right which must not be disregarded or doubted. All the international conventions and laws and ethical values which govern our present world recognize the right of the Palestinian people to determine their future. It is regrettable that Israel is trying to ignore this right by feeble excuses which cannot stand an objective discussion. This is a right that is not subject to any argument. Egypt, the Arabs and the world will not accept any discussion or bargaining over this right. What could be discussed and debated to enable the achievement of a just and durable peace is how the Palestinian people should exercise their right to determine their future.

Regarding the Palestinian people's practicing of this right, there are two basic principles which have been defined by the world community and all states. The first principle is the necessity to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The second is the liquidation of Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza as soon as possible. What needs tackling by the parties concerned is the question of the security measures.

KAMIL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PEACE SETTLEMENT

LD311409Y Hamburg DPA in German 1145 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD

[Text] Hamburg--Egypt's new foreign minister, Kamil, is optimistic about the conclusion of an early peace settlement with Israel.

In an interview with DIE WELT AM SONNTAG published today he declared: "We proceed from the premise that peace in the Middle East will assume a very concrete shape during the first weeks of the new year." Despite some differences of views between Israel and Egypt he is certain that they will quickly agree on the basic principles of peace. Kamil, who until 2 weeks ago was ambassador in Bonn, named as the first item withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The second, Kamil said, is "safeguarding the right to self-determination of the Palestinians."

Concerning the importance of Chancellor Schmidt's visit to Egypt for the Middle East peace talks Kamil declared that President as-Sadat has welcomed especially the attitude of the European community. "We believe that Europe can make an important contribution on the road to peace in the Middle East."

MINISTER SAYS HIGH DAM DEBTS TO SOVIET UNION SETTLED

NC011825Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1417 GMT 1 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 January--Irrigation Minister Eng 'Abd al-'Azim Abu al-'Ata stated today in the People's Assembly that Egypt has settled in full the High Dam debts to the Soviet Union.

He said that construction of the High Dam cost 404 million pounds and that 35,000 Egyptian workers took part in building it.

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK RETURNS TO CAIRO FROM KUWAIT

JN011516Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 1 January--At 1500 today Vice President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo at the end of a visit of several hours to Kuwait during which he offered condolences on behalf of President as-Sadat to Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and the Kuwaiti ruling family on the death of the late ruler Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah.

The vice president was received at Cairo airport by Tourism and Aviation Minister Muhib Ramzi Istinu.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN031633Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 January--President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and president of the Council of the Revolution, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq.

The Algerian president was accorded an official and popular reception at the airport, where he was received by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, RCC members, cabinet ministers and senior officials.

The Algerian president is accompanied by a delegation which includes Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister; Ahmed Draia, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of transport; Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, minister of finance; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister counselor to the president of the republic; Muhyi ad-Din Animur, adviser to the president; and Abdelkader Bensafi, head of the Arab World Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Al-Bakr

JN031736Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Algerian President Houari Boumediene held a meeting this evening, attended by RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn.

The talks during the meeting dealt with aspects of the current situation in the Arab region on the Arab and international levels. The talks also dealt with the issues, measures and steps which should be taken to overcome the obstacles which face the Arab nation as a result of serious plots which affect the general trend of events. The meeting further dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and the means to promote these relations in the interest of the Arab cause.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi and Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister.

Talks Continue

JN040919Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 January--Presidents Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Houari Boumediene held a second meeting here this morning in the presence of RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn.

During the meeting, they completed the discussion of the situation through which the Arab nation is passing and the means that should be taken to confront the plots being concocted against the Arab cause.

The meeting was attended by Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Algerian minister of foreign affairs.

Presidents al-Bakr and Boumediene held their first meeting last night.

Concludes Visit

JN041512Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 January--Algerian President Houari Boumediene left Baghdad this evening following a 1-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. During the visit the Algerian president held two sessions of talks with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, which were attended by Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; the foreign minister; and the members of the Algerian delegation accompanying President Boumediene.

The talks focused on the current Arab situation and the means to be adopted to confront the conspiracies being concocted against the Arab nation.

President Boumediene was accompanied by Abdelaziz Bouteflika, minister of foreign affairs; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister counselor to the Algerian president; and several high-ranking Algerian officials.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES PFLP LEADER HABASH

JN041123Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 January--Tariq 'Aziz, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Revolution Command Council member, met here today with Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP].

During the meeting, they discussed the current Arab situation and the necessary steps to set up the front of steadfastness and liberation within the Arab progressive forces to confront the schemes of imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction as well as the capitulatory policies. They also discussed the relations among the Arab revolution's forces and the need to boost them by means of a joint, firm and consistent program for struggle.

Dr Habash arrived in Baghdad last night at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Talks Begin

JN051004Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 5 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 January--The talks between delegations representing the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Palestinian rejectionist front began here this morning. The talks focused on the relations of struggle between the party and the front and on joint action to create the front of steadfastness and liberation within the Arab progressive forces struggling against the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary schemes and the capitulatory course. The sides urged the revolutionary forces rejecting the capitulatory course to play an effective role in creating this front and in strengthening Arab positions against the renegade forces of capitulation.

The Ba'th Party delegation was headed by Shibli al-'Aysami, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and included Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, Ba'th Party National Command member; Tariq 'Aziz, Ba'th Party National Command member; Sa'dun Shakir, Regional Command member; and 'Abd al-Husayn Musallam, head of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office in the National Command. The rejectionist front delegation comprised Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP; Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front and secretary of the rejectionist front; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front; and 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary of the Arab Liberation Front.

LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN0819377 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Libyan Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq. At-Turayki said that his visit to Iraq comes within the framework of coordination between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Iraq at this stage through which the Arab nation is passing following As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territory. At-Turayki described As-Sadat's visit as a disgrace to the Arab nation. The delegation accompanying At-Turayki includes [name indistinct], minister plenipotentiary at the Libyan Foreign Secretariat, and Muhammad Taha [name indistinct], minister plenipotentiary and head of cooperation at the Foreign Secretariat, and Miftah Madi, chief of African cooperation in the Foreign Secretariat.

At-Turayki was received at the airport by Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Mundhir 'Uryam, Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Libyan ambassador in Baghdad.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN0416177 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr this evening received 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Libyana Jamahiriyah. During the meeting the Libyan secretary conveyed a message to President al-Bakr from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress in Libya, dealing with developments in the situation in the Arab arena and the means to be adopted to confront the circumstances through which the Arab nation and its issues of destiny are passing. The meeting was attended by Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and acting foreign minister.

LEBANESE BA'TH PARTY OFFICIALS ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD

JN0407437 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Radi Rarhat, assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon, and Comrade Tahsin al-Atrash, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Comrade Rarhat said that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on the developments in the Arab situation and adequate means to confront the plots that are being concocted by imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction against the Arab nation's issues. He said: Our faith in our nation, our party and revolution [words indistinct] the pan-Arab responsibility at this stage.

They were received at the airport by Comrade Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, and a number of comrades.

LEBANESE CP DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN0508047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 5 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 January--George Hawi, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party, has stated that Iraq's support for the Lebanese nationalist movement during the past years stems from the faith in the unity of the pan-Arab struggle.

Hawi arrived in Baghdad yesterday accompanying by Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the communist action organization in Lebanon. Hawi said that his visit acquires special significance, particularly under the complicated Arab circumstances resulting from the involvement of certain Arab rulers in capitulatory policy.

On his part, Ibrahim expressed his confidence that his visit to Iraq reflects the firm ties between the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Ba'th Party.

VICE PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER BEGIN VISIT TO BULGARIA

For reportage on the visit to Bulgaria of Vice President Tana Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and Foreign Affairs Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, which began on 4 January, see the Bulgaria section of the 5 January issue and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

PRESIDENT'S ENVOY TO ALGERIA, LIBYA RETURNS HOME

JN310844Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 31 Dec 77 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 December--Comrade Na'im Haddad, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Revolution Command Council member, returned to Baghdad last night after conveying written messages to President Boumediene and Al-Qadhdhafi dealing with current Arab situation.

It will be recalled that President al-Bakr had sent similar messages to Chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

HUSAYN RECEIVES ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

JN021226Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 January--Saddam Husayn, the Ba'th Party assistant secretary general and Revolution Command Council vice chairman, today received 'Abd al-Majid Farid, the chairman of the Arab popular conference.

During the meeting, the two reviewed the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing and the humiliating capitulatory solutions being formulated against the Arab cause.

KURDISTAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY BEGINS 10TH SESSION

JN021413Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 January--The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party began its 10th conference here today. The conference will last 3 days.

The opening session was attended by 'Abdallah Fadil, member of the Arab Ba'th Party Regional Command and of the Revolution Command Council, and 'Abd as-Sattar Tahir Sharif, Kurdistan Revolutionary Party Central Committee secretary. Sharif read the party's political report which stressed condemnation of As-Sadat's trip of shame to occupied Palestine and reviewed the events through which the Arab nation and the Palestinian question are passing.

Sharif said that at this stage the role of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party is that of supporting the Arab Ba'th Party's political command. He expressed the party's appreciation for the achievements realized in Iraq in general and in the self-rule region in particular. He also praised the development of self-rule in the Kurdistan region and the deepening of social changes in Iraq aimed at attaining socialism.

HUSAYN BRIEFS CABINET ON TALKS WITH CARTER, SHAH

JN0417102Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon visited the Prime Ministry building and met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

His majesty presided over a cabinet meeting devoted to reviewing the latest developments in the Middle East crisis in light of the discussions his majesty recently held in Teheran with His Majesty Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, and his majesty's meeting with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

During the meeting His Majesty King Husayn affirmed Jordan's pan-Arab responsibility and the duty it is fulfilling toward the Arab issue and Palestinian rights. He said: In the international field, Jordan is seeking a just and honorable peace. Within the Arab framework, Jordan will seek to unify Arab ranks and caution the brethren of the deep negative impact of differences and reaction.

His majesty added: It is natural for us to differ on viewpoints and methods of action. However, our differences should be within certain bounds. Otherwise, the Arab future and existence will be seriously threatened.

His majesty reviewed his talks with his majesty the shah of Iran, affirming that the talks were beneficial and fraternal, characterized by agreement of views.

His Majesty King Husayn also reviewed the talks he held with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, saying that the talks were frank and clear. His majesty said: At these discussions agreement was reached on the method of future cooperation and action in the coming stage. His majesty underlined that Jordan does not see any positive aspects in Begin's so-called peace plan.

His Majesty King Husayn said that the Palestinian people should exercise their right to self-determination. They should participate in formulating their future and in the peace process itself.

His majesty added: What paves the way for peace efforts and the participation of the Arab parties in these efforts is agreement on the principles which constitute the framework of a just settlement--total withdrawal and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem, as well as free self-determination of the Palestinian people.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that Jordan continues to carry out its positive role toward a just and honorable solution within the framework of its principles and pan-Arab convictions. His majesty cautioned that Israel is trying to absorb [imtisas] the positive world effects of President as-Sadat's initiative. It is trying to drown the initiative in procedural matters. It is also claiming that President as-Sadat's demand for a comprehensive solution is an intransigent attitude.

His majesty called on all Arabs to rally their ranks, adopt a unified stand and agreement, and mobilize world support for Arab rights and a positive Arab position.

A detailed discussion and study was held in the Prime Ministry building on the current Arab situation, the future and its possibilities. At the end of the meeting His Majesty King Husayn expressed his confidence in and thanks to Mudar Badran and the ministers for their efforts. He praised their production, honesty and loyalty.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGES FROM AS-SADAT, AL-QADHDHAFI

JN041620Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received a message from His Excellency President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat regarding latest developments in the situation in the area and the efforts being exerted to achieve a peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East crisis. The message was conveyed by Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif.

Libyan Leader's Note

JN041621Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a message from His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, praising his majesty's pan-Arab stand regarding the Palestinian cause. The message was conveyed by Libyan Ambassador in Amman Salih as-Sanusi.

AR-RA'Y: AUSTRIA'S CHANCELLOR KREISKY TO VISIT JORDAN

JN050714Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 78 p 9 JN

[Text] An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Austrian chancellor will visit Jordan in March at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn. During the visit, which will last several days, the chancellor will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on relations between the two countries and the current situation.

AL-HUSS COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST PROPOSALS

NC050712Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The prime minister, Dr Salim al-Huss, was asked about the proposed solutions for the Middle East conflict and the possible implication of imposed settlement of the Palestinians in the countries in which they reside at present, including Lebanon. The prime minister replied: Any proposed solution to the Middle East problem that is not in harmony with the aspirations and interests of the Arab peoples cannot provide a suitable basis for a just and lasting peace in the area.

He added: The Arab position is still quite clear regarding insistence on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and fulfillment of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to set up their own state. Any plan which seeks to settle the Palestinians outside their own territory will be rejected because such a plan would be a blow to the Palestinian cause as it would be against the aspirations and hopes of the Palestinian people and would also be a solution at the expense of the peoples of several fraternal Arab countries, including Lebanon. In conclusion, Prime Minister al-Huss said: Lebanon's position on this matter is derived from its unquestionable national interests and from its commitment to the Arab cause as well.

PRESS COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S TOUR

NC050842Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The main press headlines today give prominence to U.S. President Carter's statement after his talks in Aswan and Arab reactions to the new peace initiatives. AN-NAHAR comments on developments in the area and how these developments are being handled at the local level. It says: Regardless of the results of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's tour or the Cairo-Tel Aviv peace talks, Lebanon will maintain its firm position against settlement [of Palestinians] until the Palestinian problem is justly solved. AN-NAHAR rules out the possibility of a Geneva conference in the presence of all parties unless the problem of Palestinian representation is ironed out first and unless prior solutions to the Palestinian question are arrived at as a basis for talks and discussions.

Commenting on the same subject, Al-ANWAR says: Political circles pin special hopes on the optimistic statements made by some of the Arab leaders who met with U.S. President Jimmy Carter during the latter's present tour. It adds: Lebanese officials have embarked on a two-pronged move. They held contacts with the heads of the foreign diplomatic missions in Beirut to determine the nature of the optimism generated by the statements of President Carter and the leaders he met with, and whether this optimism is really justified or not. The second aspect of the Lebanese officials' move is at the Arab level. The Lebanese diplomats are expected to firmly and clearly specify [Lebanon's] demands aimed at ending the tragedy of the south and keeping the south free from the ghost of settlement [of Palestinians].

LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY MAKES BRIEF VISIT

JN041933Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the head of the Libyan Relations Office in Damascus.

Departs 5 January

JN050900Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 5 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 5 January--Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, foreign secretary in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Damascus for Tripoli this morning. He was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the head of the Libyan Relations Office in Damascus.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON CARTER-AS-SADAT MEETING

JN050704Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "The Position Following the Carter-As-Sadat Meeting," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Following his meeting with Menahem Begin in Ismailia, President as-Sadat told reporters that the meeting was successful and useful. However, facts indicate that the Ismailia meeting proved the failure of the capitulationist adventure. The meeting also indicated that the road of concessions taken by those who suffer from complexes and ambitions can lead only to further concessions and separation from the sources of national, pan-Arab and international strength.

After this great failure President as-Sadat sought the help of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, asking him to put pressure on Israel for concessions, even [word indistinct]. Washington's reply, however, supported Begin's program, which is aimed at entrenching the occupation in the Arab territories and at rejecting the idea of a Palestinian state.

TISHRIN adds: Carter's statements caused unfavorable reaction in certain Egyptian official and information circles. AL-AHRAM did not hesitate to accuse Carter of failing to honor pledges and of pursuing a two-faced policy. AL-AHRAM also said that the United States had supported the Israeli position on the Palestinian cause, although President Carter had told Begin in Washington that he could not approve the principles of solution unless Egypt agreed.

Apparently As-Sadat does not intend to admit that he has failed. Following his meeting with Carter in Aswan, As-Sadat told reporters--just as he did following the Ismailia meeting--that their viewpoints were identical.

TISHRIN wonders: What did they agree about? It answers: The U.S. administration denies the national rights of the Palestinian people, their right to determine their future and their right to set up their national state and to return to their homeland. This administration also refuses to recognize the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of this people. Moreover, the United States refuses to put any pressure on Israel--pressure that would be possible due to the special relations between Washington and Tel Aviv. All this was openly stated by Carter's spokesman in Aswan when he said that the U.S. task was to help the parties to reach a solution, but it had no specific plan to present.

ALGERIA

ALGIERS: PRESIDENT CARTER FAILED TO SWAY HUSAYN

LD011418Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 1 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] King Husayn of Jordan has said no to Carter and no to negotiations with Israel. The American President, who met the king of Jordan in Iran, one of the stops on his world tour, met with failure in his attempt to rally Jordan to the American proposals regarding the Middle East, but he still hopes to rally further support among the moderate Arab countries. Thus, after a visit to India where he arrived today, the American President will go to Riyadh to try to convince the Saudis to abandon their official reservations regarding the direct dialog started by Mr Begin and Mr as-Sadat. The head of the American administration confirmed in Teheran that he will go to Egypt on Wednesday for further talks with President as-Sadat on the evolution of the situation in the Middle East.

SYRIAN, ALGERIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS BEGIN TALKS

JN021133Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Algiers--Talks between the delegation of the Syrian Arab People's Assembly under Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, and the delegation of the Algerian National Assembly began in Algiers this morning. The aim of the talks is to achieve coordination and cooperation between the parliamentary bodies of the two countries within the framework of the resolutions passed by the summit of steadfastness and confrontation held in Tripoli. The delegation of the Syrian People's Assembly arrived in Algiers at noon yesterday for an official visit to Algeria, which will last several days.

LIBYA

OFFICIALS RECEIVE WESTERN SAHARAN LEADERS

LD011126Y Tripoli JANA in English 0950 GMT 1 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 1, JANA--The chairman of the Arab Liaison Office at the General People's Congress received yesterday Mohammed Abdul 'Aziz, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Azzaqia al-Hamra and Wadi Addahib (Western Sahara), Mohammed al-Amin, the prime minister of the Democratic Arab Republic of Sahara, and Mohammed Ould Zipo, the justice minister.

SAHARAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD041028Y Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 4, JANA--Foreign Minister of the Democratic Arab Republic of Sahara, Ibrahim Hakeem, arrived here yesterday for a several day visit. He was received by officials of the Foreign Liaison Office of the General Peoples Congress.

AL-'UBAYDI MEETS WITH CONFEDERATION PREMIER

LD011012Y Tripoli JANA in English 0921 GMT 1 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Jan 1, JANA--A meeting was held here yesterday between Ahmad al-Khatib, the prime minister of the Federation of Arab Republics, and 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the chairman of the General People's Committee. The meeting was attended by Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, secretary of treasury.

OFFICIAL RECEIVES U.S. WOMEN'S DELEGATION

LD031056Y Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 3, JANA--The head of the Foreign Liaison Office yesterday received the visiting delegation of American women, currently here on the invitation of the Jamahiriyah Women's Federation. The office head explained to the delegation the phase of the developments the Libyan women are currently witnessing in building up a healthy society. He also gave them a clear picture of the role being played by women in the Jamahiriyah in the social, cultural and political activities as well as the great importance being paid by the First of September Revolution to them. The meeting was also attended by some members of the Jamahriyah Women's Federation.

LIBYA, AUSTRALIA TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES

LD031750Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Libya and Australia have decided to establish diplomatic representation between them at the ambassadorial level. A statement to this effect was issued today.

MAURITANIA

ADDITIONAL 600 MOROCCAN TROOPS ARRIVE IN AKJOUJI

LD032012Y Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, 3 Jan--An informed source in Nouakchott said yesterday that a 600-strong unit of Moroccan armed forces had taken up positions in Akjoujt, an important economic centre of 6,000 people in Mauritania 250 km northeast of Nouakchott.

With the arrival of a Moroccan unit in Akjoujt, Moroccan troops in Mauritania now number 6,000, of whom 2,000 are stationed in the extreme north--in Dkahla, Bir Mograin and Ain Ben Tili. There are also 2,400 Moroccan troops in Zouerate, all along the railroad line linking Nouadibou with Zouerate. Another 600 troops recently arrived in (Akar), a major city in central Mauritania.

It has also been learned from the same source that three F-5 Northrop planes of the Moroccan Royal Air Force are now based in Nouadibou. Together with the Dakar-based French Jaguar planes, they are likely to make reconnaissance and interception flights against the POLISARIO columns in Mauritania. The same source said that a small-scale clash occurred on 22 December between a Moroccan battalion and a Saharan battalion, near Ain Ben Tili.

PRESIDENT THANKS FRANCE, MOROCCO FOR MILITARY AID

LD312125Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD

[Excerpt] In a speech in Nouakchott today to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the founding of the Mauritanian People's Party, the only party, President Mokhtar Ould Daddah expressed his thanks and gratitude to Morocco and France for the military support these two countries are giving Mauritania in fighting against Algerian aggression, to which the Mauritanian people will never surrender.

The Mauritanian president also emphasized that in calling on its allies and friends for help, Mauritania had acted as any other country at war would have acted. Mokhtar Ould Daddah also said that France' support was much less extensive than Morocco's. France, he added, responded to our call not to defend us but to help us to defend ourselves. The distinction is important, the head of state stressed.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES MAURITANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

ID041400Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 78 ID

[Text] At noon today His Majesty King Hassan II received in audience at the royal palace in Marrakech a Mauritanian delegation comprised of Defense Minister Col Mbarke Ould Bouna Moktar; Mr Muhammad Ali Sharif, secretary general to the presidency; and Mr Sidi Mohamed Ould Abderrahmane, Mauritanian ambassador in Rabat. Also present at the meeting was his majesty's adviser Mr Abdelhadi Boutaleb. The delegation arrived in Marrakech this morning and was met at the airport by Mr Abdelhadi Boutaleb and Mr Mustafa Tariq, governor of the region.

Message to Mokhtar Ould Daddah

ID042220Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 78 ID

[Summary] Abdelhadi Butales, the king's adviser, this evening left Marrakech for Nouakchott with a private message from the king to President Mokhtar Ould Daddah. On the same plane were the Mauritanian delegation composed of the defense minister and others who brought a message to King Hassan from Mokhtar Ould Daddah.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PREMIER

ID301528Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Dec 77 LD EA

[Summary] President Numayri this morning received Dr Muhammad Hafiz Ghanim, Egyptian deputy prime minister, who handed him a written message of congratulations on Sudan's independence anniversary from President as-Sadat. "The leader-president, Ja'far Numayri, thanked Dr Muhammad Hafiz Ghanim for the sentiments expressed during the meeting and said that his support for the Egyptian people and the Arab nation's struggle was part of the national and pan-Arab duty that all of us should discharge at this (?important) phase in this history of our nation.

"President Ja'far Numayri asked Dr Hafiz Ghanim to convey his greetings and best wishes to his brother President Anwar as-Sadat and said that he was looking forward to meeting him in Khartoum to continue to joint march toward the prosperity and progress of the Nile Valley and the unity and solidarity of the Arab peoples." Ghanim leaves for Cairo tonight.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA NAMES NEW MEMBERS TO PARTY BODY

LD050240Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] President Bourguiba this morning received Prime Minister Nouira in the presence of Bourguiba, Jr, special adviser to the president. During the meeting President Bourguiba, in his capacity as chairman of the party, appointed three new mambers of the Political Bureau of the Destourran Socialist Party. The new members are Mr Abderrahman Ben Messaoud, Iarbi Mallakh and Iarbi Aberrazak. They replace Tabar Belkhoja, Mongi Kooli and Habib Chatti.

NOUIRA WANTS BEGIN TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO AS-SADAT

LD310005Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Dec 77 LD

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira this evening made a statement on French television. Asked what the government's position will be if a strike takes place in the phosphate mines, for example, he replied: I believe there will be no strike in the phosphates mine.

Asked about the rapprochement between Egypt and Israel and the position of a Moslem country like Tunisia toward this rapprochement, Hedi Nouira said: We certainly are Moslems, but why do you want the Moslems to be enemies of the Jews all the time? We must debunk this myth. What is now taking place in the Middle East involves a great deal of courage. It is sufficient to know that the fighting party wants to take the decisive step of securing true, just and correct peace conditions and lasting conditions. So far, it has been President as-Sadat who has taken the first steps. There is nothing to indicate that Prime Minister Begin has responded positively to these moves.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ISSUED

LD012146Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] The Executive Committee of the POLISARIO Front met in the liberated lands in the Western Sahara from 26 to 28 December 1977 and issued a statement. It refers to the difficult times through which the Arab world and Africa are passing. The Maghreb is witnessing an escalation of the situation in view of the Moroccan-Mauritanian invasion of the Sahara and the open intervention of France on the side of the forces of aggression. The statement hails the heroic struggle of the Saharan people in defense of its existence. It condemns the maneuvers and plots of the Rabat and Nouakchott regimes aimed at undermining international resolutions and obstructing a just solution to the problem of decolonization in the Western Sahara.

The statement also speaks about widespread dissatisfaction in Morocco and Mauritania with the war effort against the Saharan people. It goes on to praise the front's unilateral decision to free French and Spanish citizens who became prisoners as a result of the war imposed on the Saharan people. France's military intervention threatens the security and aspirations of the peoples of the Mediterranean. The statement then renews its expressions of gratitude to the Algerian people and government for their brave stand of defending the dignity of the Saharan people. It calls on peace-loving peoples in the world to support the just struggle of the Saharan people for self-determination.

CARTER'S TALKS IN ASWAN WITH AS-SADAT ELICIT REACTION

Begin Comments

TA041320Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] The prime minister has already reacted in the Knesset to the meeting between Carter and As-Sadat. Our correspondent Zevi Lidar reports his remarks: [begin recording]

[Begin] About an hour and 15 minutes ago U.S. President Carter called me on a radiotelephone from Air Force 1. We had a very friendly conversation. The President promised to communicate to me the details of his talks in Aswan. In the meantime he told me that President as-Sadat had expressed friendship toward me. Of course, I want to point out that this is a mutual feeling. It is good that we have found a language of mutual and personal understanding since this certainly is an element that can be useful in negotiations.

The negotiations, as you know, will begin on 16 January. Secretary of State Vance will also take part in them. We will certainly hear from Secretary of State Vance and Ambassador Lewis on the details of the talks in Aswan.

[Lidar] The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the fact that As-Sadat's and Carter's announcements did not include the words "Palestinian state."

[Begin] I heard the announcement of President Carter and President as-Sadat. I did not hear the words "Palestinian state," and I noted this as positive, of course. I may be mistaken; President as-Sadat may have used this term. I, however, did not hear it. We listened to the news in Hebrew at 1200 and did not hear this expression. If the two presidents did not use it, I note this as a positive thing.

[Lidar] President Carter asked for flexibility from his friends. Was there room for further flexibility on the part of Israel?

[Begin] Why should there be further flexibility? We have brought a proposal that all those who saw it announced--how do the Sabras say?--that it is "fair" [last word in English]. We will not turn fairness into unfairness. Therefore, we insist on our proposals which are based on fairness.

We will give administrative autonomy in all spheres of life to the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. We will guarantee real security for the Jews of Eretz Yisra'el. This is fairness, and therefore we will insist on it.

[Question] Mr Begin, President Carter knows this and still he spoke today of flexibility.

[Answer] I have not heard such phrases from President Carter. I want to say that the problem is one of free negotiations between the two countries and--how do the Sabras say it?--a chance should be given to these negotiations, and they should not be burdened and made more difficult by unnecessary questions. [end recording]

POST Report

TA051011Y Jerusalem POST in English 5 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By POST diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Excerpts] "We can live with it," highly placed officials said with undisguised relief yesterday on reading President Carter's statement at Aswan. Not everything in the statement was to Israel's liking, they admitted, but considering that it had been made in Egypt, with President as-Sadat standing alongside, it was "within the limits of what we can take," the officials said.

At the same time the U.S. President's statement dramatically confirmed the expectation of observers here--as reported in Tuesday's and yesterday's Jerusalem POST--that Washington is preparing to take a major mediating role in the next phase of Israel-Egypt negotiations. "We intend to play an active role in the work of the political committee," Carter declared in his prepared statement.

Sources here and in Washington believe the U.S. will press Israel to regard its self-rule proposal as a transitional measure, leaving open a possibility of self-determination for the West Bank later, with close linkage to Jordan.

Premier Menahem Begin however again flatly rejected self-determination yesterday. "We don't beat around the bush," he told newsmen in the Knesset. "The term self-determination, as it is understood in international law and practice, means a Palestinian state and we will not agree to such a mortal danger to Israel.

There are several million Mexican Americans living in the U.S. and they don't ask for the creation of a Mexican state on the border of Mexico and the U.S....What we are proposing in our plan would provide full autonomy for the Eretz Yisra'el Arabs in every walk of life, and full security for Eretz Yisra'el Jews."

A Palestinian state, the premier said, would be taken over into a Soviet base. "Soviet artillery would be supplied to an Arafatian Palestinian state in a matter of days or weeks at most." He cited the examples of Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Libya to prove his point.

Begin spoke shortly after talking with President Carter by radio-telephone following Carter's meeting with As-Sadat. But close aides stressed that the premier's tough remarks against self-determination were not connected with the phone-call from Carter. The subject had not even been raised in the conversation, they said.

Begin himself indicated, too, that Carter had not gone into specifics, promising a fuller report later through diplomatic channels. He had only conveyed to Begin the "friendship and admiration" in which As-Sadat held him.

"And this feeling is reciprocal," Begin told the newsmen. The fact that he and As-Sadat had indeed struck up a warm mutual regard would doubtless "help the peacemaking process," he added.

Giving his own first assessment of the Aswan statements, Begin noted with satisfaction that neither As-Sadat nor Carter had spoken of a Palestinian state.

'Circles in Jerusalem'

TA041743Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] In Jerusalem circles in the capital are describing the U.S. announcement at the end of the talks in Aswan as fairly good. However, the capital has reservations about the phrase "the legal right of the Palestinians," as used by President Carter. Mr Begin pointed out that he regarded the meeting in Aswan as a good opening for the work of the Israeli-Egyptian committees. Our political correspondent Yosi La'or gives further details:

[La'or--live] In Jerusalem they listened very attentively, so we heard, to the reports coming from Aswan and, in particular, they stressed the importance of the U.S. announcement containing three points, as we heard in the report from Washington. An analysis of the announcement shows a number of positive points, from Israel's point of view, as well as negative elements.

Here is the breakdown: Jerusalem regards as positive the announcement that the reference is to a peace treaty, which is more than a nonbelligerence agreement. The treaty, Carter said, will lead to normal relations. There are two interpretations of this in the capital. One is that the reference is to As-Sadat's view that normal relations are relations in accordance with the UN Charter. That means disputes are not to be solved through force, nothing more. The second interpretation in the capital is based on the talks in Ismailia, and says that As-Sadat said then that normal relations are full relations of peace, that is, open borders, commerce, cultural exchanges and so on.

Clause two speaks about withdrawal from territories, which Israel interprets as referring to the Security Council resolutions, again an element supported by Israel. In the capital they are even regarding the phrase "recognized and secure borders" as positive.

Clause three is the problematic one. The phrase "legitimate rights of the Palestinians" was sharply rejected by Israel when it was first mentioned by the United States in the joint announcement with the Soviet Union. Today the circles in the capital expressed regret that this term, which has far-reaching significance according to Arab interpretations, was again included in President Carter's announcement.

Another statement by Carter that the Palestinians should be brought into the determination of their own future was favorably received by the prime minister, in contrast to the interpretation we have just heard from Washington. This term, Begin said, fits in with the U.S.-Israeli working paper.

Apart from a precise analysis of the contents of the announcement, it can be pointed out that, to Jerusalem's regret, Carter did not repeat his public position opposing a Palestinian state. But the circles in the capital said that it was impossible to expect such a statement in Aswan. It was clear that Carter would avoid returning to that point, which had angered As-Sadat in the past.

Lewis Briefs Begin, Dayan

TA051134Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Jan 78 TA

[Text] U.S. Ambassador in Israel Samuel Lewis brought the prime minister today a report from President Carter about the talks in Aswan.

Our political correspondent Shalom Qital says that the meeting between the ambassador and the prime minister and foreign minister ended a short while ago. The meeting lasted 1 and 1/2 hours.

In reply to questions, the ambassador said that there was no change regarding the solution proposed for the West Bank and that all matters would be discussed with the participation of Secretary of State Vance during his visit to Jerusalem for the meetings of the Israeli-Egyptian political committee.

MURDERED PLO REPRESENTATIVE MET WITH ISRAELI LEFTISTS

TA050704Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Sa'id Hamami, the PLO representative in Britain, who was murdered yesterday, met with two leftist Israelis in London 2 weeks ago. In their presence he criticized the PLO leadership and its opposition to As-Sadat's peace initiative. Hamami said that he supported As-Sadat's moves but asked that his support not be publicized. He also said that the Palestinians were in a difficult period because of pressure by Syria and the rejection front.

DAYAN VIEWS EGYPT'S ATTITUDE ON SEPARATE PEACE

TA041648Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan says that ultimately the Egyptians will be willing to make a separate settlement with Israel if the other Arab countries continue to insist on their refusal to join in the talks. Minister Dayan said, in a lecture at the Haifa technion, that it was not be assumed that the Egyptians would allow the Arab rejectionist front to veto all the attempts being made to achieve peace. Our correspondent Zevi Tal brings us some of the foreign minister's remarks: [begin recording]

[Tal] The foreign minister confirmed that so far the official Egyptian position is that no separate agreement is to be signed between Israel and Egypt, but here and there one can also hear other voices. Only when we arrive at an agreement with Egypt on the questions in dispute will we finally know what the Egyptian position will be.

[Dayan] At this stage I believe that the Egyptians want to continue on this road, which means that if they arrive at an agreement with us they will neither hesitate nor be deterred. They are also likely to come to a separate peace agreement and not give the rejectionist front the right of veto, which would prevent the Egyptians from getting an agreement they want. Thank you very much.

[Tal] The foreign minister said that there is no doubt that the Americans will continue to take an active part in the attempts to bring about peace, even if their intervention has caused a certain deadlock between the United States and the Soviet Union. In reply to a question by an Arab student as to why Dayan claimed there was no official Arab representation, while it was known that the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria regard the PLO as their representative, Minister Dayan replied:

[Dayan] Now, after the Cairo conference has opened, what I said is absolutely precise, and it is that in the negotiations now being held between Egypt and Israel no other Arab country is taking part and the representatives of the Arab population are not coming, even though Egypt invited them--neither to the conference which has not yet opened in Jerusalem, nor to the one which has opened in Cairo.

In spite of the fact that As-Sadat invited and asked them, they did not want to come, and they did not take part in the debate and made the most extremist resolutions against the State of Israel. I do not want to delude anyone. Had they agreed to come, we would not have sat down with them. We would not have sat down with them. But for the moment the situation is that the representatives of the PLO do not want to take part in the Egyptians peace conference with the Israelis. [end recording]

DETAILS OF ISRAELI PROPOSAL ON SINAI REVEALED

TA050916Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[Text] We will now give additional details about the military aspect of the official Israeli proposal for a peace agreement.

The official Israeli proposal regarding a settlement in the Sinai was first submitted in writing to Egypt about a week ago through U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and during the talks between Weizman and Al-Jamasi. During Begin's visit to Ismailia, the Egyptians were verbally informed of the main points of the Israeli plan.

It seems that the Israeli plan is based on two promises, not published hitherto, made by President as-Sadat to Menahem Begin. According to these promises, the Strait of Tiran will be declared an international waterway and the Egyptian Army will remain in the Sinai as it is presently deployed. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir surveys the main points of the Israeli plans:

[Nir--live] If the Israeli settlement proposal is accepted, it is assumed that after the final withdrawal there will be three zones in the Sinai: a limited-forces zone stretching from the Suez Canal to the Jiddi and Mitla passes, a demilitarized zone stretching [from the passes] to the line of Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad, and a third zone that will be under UN supervision and flag stretching up to the international border. When we look at the map, it becomes clear that the Rafah approaches settlements will be in the UN zone. According to the Israeli position, this does not take them out of the boundaries of Egyptian sovereignty. However, Israel will request that they be linked to its administration and jurisdiction and that a local defense force be maintained in them. These definitions, a link to Israeli jurisdiction and a local defense force, are very vague and it is unclear how they will be applied in a region which is under Egyptian sovereignty and the UN flag.

The three military airfields in east Sinai pose a most significant problem from the Israeli point of view. Israel will want to hold on to them as long as possible, and it is also possible that after the withdrawal to the 1967 borders a way will be found to maintain some of the airfields in our hands as civilian airfields under UN supervision.

It is clear that the Israeli plan is based on the two promises As-Sadat made to Mr Begin during the visit in Jerusalem: A) The Strait of Tiran will be declared an international waterway; and B) The Egyptian forces will not cross the Jiddi and Mitla passes line, and the rest of the Sinai will remain demilitarized. Contrary to the promises made, however, it became clear in the recent contacts that the Egyptians are not prepared to accept a permanent demilitarized zone in the Sinai. If this Egyptian position is maintained during the negotiations, a most central element in the Israeli proposal for a settlement in the Sinai will be rendered useless.

EGYPT CUTS BACK HEBREW BROADCASTS TO ISRAEL

TA032120Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Egypt today ceased most of its broadcasts beamed to Israel. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that all daytime broadcasts in Hebrew were stopped and as of now Egypt is broadcasting in Hebrew for only 2 hours at night. Broadcasts to Israel in other languages have also been stopped.

The special broadcasts to Israel were, as is well known, propaganda and psychological warfare broadcasts.

EGYPT REPORTEDLY WANTS PLO TO CHANGE CHARTER

TA030723Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] An important Egyptian source has told our emissary in Cairo that Egypt is supporting a demand that the PLO amend the Palestine charter in return for Israeli consent to discuss with the PLO the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The reference is to clauses dealing with the annihilation of Israel.

The source said that Egypt's president would communicate this position to President Carter. The Egyptian source stressed, at the same time, that President as-Sadat is unable to state that position publicly before a change in Israel's position is secured.

WEST BANK RESIDENTS REACT TO BEGIN PLAN

HA'AREZ Reports Opposition

TA011511Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Jan 78 p 3 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin's plan regarding autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was received with pointed disfavor by notables in the territories and by the east Jerusalem press. Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi said at the end of last week that the main purpose of the plan was to legalize the Israeli conquest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, "and to this our nation is opposed." He stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to an independent state.

Bethlehem Mayor Elyas Frayj said it was impossible to agree to an Israeli military presence in the territories. The policy of establishing Jewish settlements causes concern for West Bank residents, who think that the proposed autonomy is meaningless so long as the settlement policy is not stopped and so long as Israeli troops do not make a real withdrawal.

The Mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, said he did not see any progress in Mr Begin's proposal because civilian administration and the conduct of foreign affairs by Israel--while Israeli troops remained in the territories--had been proposed by former Israeli governments over the last 10 years. The only difference between the two plans was in the name, Mr ash-Shawwa said. In the former plan the territories were called "occupied or held territories"; in the new plan they are called "territories enjoying an autonomous rule." The name is different, the mayor of Gaza said, but the content is the same, and we flatly reject the plan.

It is noteworthy that the rejection of the prime minister's plan united all the camps in the territories--supporters of the PLO, of Jordan and also such as are regarded as sitting on the fence, like Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi. Last Friday the east Jerusalem paper ASH-SHA'B published the reactions of 10 West Bank mayors, including Jordan sympathizers, who express a negative position to the plan.

However, there are many leaders in various camps in the territories who, although refusing to be quoted, see Begin's new initiative as an initial move toward the solution of the Palestinian problem. Most surprising is the position of several leaders in the PLO camp in the held territories and in east Jerusalem who, in private and off-the-record talks, take exception to the official position of the PLO. According to those notables, most of whom are the real PLO activists and string pullers in the territories and in east Jerusalem, the PLO position as expressed by 'Arafat is too intransigent and unrealistic. The said notables, who in recent years supported the official PLO line, are for the first time demonstrating an independent position and would prefer to see PLO representatives in the Cairo talks--face to face, opposite the Israelis.

According to the notables, President as-Sadat's firm stand on the Palestinian issue, especially after the Ismailia meeting, constitutes a guarantee that As-Sadat has not forsaken the Palestinians and that his position conforms with the national position of Palestinian leaders in the territories and in Arab countries. While the pro-Jordanian camp and its leaders are waiting for instructions from Amman and are not going to take a single step without explicit directives or a green light, there is a willingness among a number of prominent leaders in the PLO camp for a rapprochement with the pro-Jordanian camp, provided its leaders move closer to them, giving up their total dependency on Amman.

Another important development is the renewed use of political assassinations over the last 2 weeks. The victim last week was the deputy director of the Ramallah education department, who was murdered after having been warned about the relations he was cultivating with Israeli authorities. One of the leaders of the pro-PLO camp said last week that should the political assassinations continue (the instructions for which are no doubt being issued by terrorist organizations in Beirut), and if they are not checked by Israeli security forces, the extremist wing of the PLO camp will get the upper hand over the wing which is now demonstrating a trend for independence, and will also generally strengthen the extremist spirit at the expense of the moderates.

"We don't understand why Israeli leaders keep pouring water in the grinder," wrote the east Jerusalem paper ASH-SHA'B on Thursday. The paper says that Begin's proposals do not conform to even the minimum Arab demands. As a rule, ASH-SHA'B voices the PLO line, but even the pro-Jordanian paper AL-QUDS is adopting the same position and writes that the new plan is a transparent attempt to win official Arab agreement for the Israeli conquest.

Local Councils' Support

TA041720Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 78 p 2 TA

[By 'AL HAMISHMAR correspondent]

[Text] The local council of Kafr Bi'na in western Galilee has sent a letter to Prime Minister Begin welcoming his proposal for the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and views it as a plausible basis for negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, the Arab countries.

Earlier, the local council of Deir Hanna published an advertisement in AL-ANBAH expressing satisfaction with the prime minister's proposals.

Attorney (Jamil Shalhun), a member of the Haifa municipality, made a moving appeal to Begin to personally decide on the matter of the departure of a delegation of Israeli Arabs for Cairo in order to congratulate As-Sadat on his peace initiative.

In his letter (Shalhun) congratulates Menahem Begin and views the autonomy plan proposed by the prime minister for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a basis for the solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Haifa Residents' Support

TA041721Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[Text] About 250 Arab residents of Haifa signed a petition supporting Menahem Begin's peace steps. The petition was received today in the office of the prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs. Among those who signed the petition are members of the trustee committee of the waqf in Haifa, notables and rank-and-file people. Similar petitions of support continue to be signed in Galilee villages.

SHAH OF IRAN, BEGIN MAINTAIN CONSTANT CONTACT

TA021737Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jan 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Ilan Kefir, the paper's special representative in Teheran]

[Text] The shah of Iran asked to meet with the Israeli prime minister secretly but the prime minister replied that he could not leave for even a short visit to Teheran. This is what I was told by senior political sources in Iran.

Nevertheless, constant contact has been maintained between the shah and the Israeli prime minister over the last few weeks. According to the Iranian sources, Begin took care to report to the shah about Israel's plans. The shah also receives detailed reports from President as-Sadat about his contacts with Israel.

These Iranian sources reported that in view of Begin's inability to go to Teheran it was concluded in personal talks between the shah's palace and the prime minister's office that a brief secret visit by Foreign Minister Dayan to Teheran would be held. This was indeed carried out last week. Dayan reached Teheran on a special plane that parked beyond the area used for commercial flights. According to the Iranian sources, immediately after landing Dayan was driven to the palace where he met with the shah.

At that meeting Dayan informed the shah of Israel's positive attitude toward Iran's efforts to persuade Jordan to join the talks between Israel and Egypt.

It was also concluded at the meeting that direct contacts between the governments of Israel and Iran will continue in the future.

The Iranians were surprised by the leakage in Israel of information about the meeting. An Iranian source told me: "Such things do not happen here. This harms the security of the state."

Another Iranian source told me that the possibility of inviting Begin or Dayan to Teheran during Carter's visit there was examined. This was aimed at initiating a meeting between them and King Husayn, but the plan was not carried out.

Yesterday I met with the Iranian information and tourism minister, Dariush Homayun, who told me that "the developments in the Middle East will certainly have a positive bearing on the relations between Iran and Israel. I believe that the relations between Iran and Israel will be different from what they are today."

The minister added: "Iran is aware of the great importance of peace in the Middle East. We will help the best we can in order to promote peace. We are kept informed about the discussions. We keep in contact with the parties involved. We intend to encourage all our friends to aid this process and not be bystanders.

"If peace is achieved in the Middle East, this will be a great relief to all of us. The situation prevailing until now has distressed us all. Since As-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem, however, we have felt a new atmosphere in the region. This atmosphere must not be allowed to die away.

"We expect the Middle East and the entire world to be different once the conflict is ended. This will be a great event for all of us."

DECISION ADOPTED FOR THREE MORE SETTLEMENTS

TA050803Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Work on setting up three new settlements and fleshing-out some of the existing settlements in the Rafah approaches will begin within the next few days. A decision on this was made in the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs and was brought to the government's attention in the cabinet meeting held the day before yesterday.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the committee adopted two decisions: to put on sale 125 lots in Yamit and to set up 3 Gush Emunim settlements within 10 days. The members of the three Gush Emunim nuclei are presently in the existing Gush Emunim settlements.

Our correspondent says that these decisions are bound to cause disagreement between the Likud and the DMC. The DMC claims that, according to the coalition agreement, decisions regarding settlement to which the DMC is opposed should be submitted to the approval of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Eight Villages Started

TA050945Y Jerusalem POST in English 5 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Al-'Arish--Ground-breaking started today for eight settlements between here and Yamit. Eight bulldozers belonging to Afra, a subsidiary of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), went out, one to each of the settlement sites, and began work simultaneously.

The project is probably part of the Jewish Agency's plans, reported earlier this week, for the extension of Jewish settlements in the Rafah region.

The new settlements are near Kefar Haruvit, in the Diqla region, some 25 kilometers along the Sinai coast from Yamit.

In Jerusalem last night JNF Chairman Moshe Rivlin confirmed to the Jerusalem POST that bulldozers were sent out by his organization in the Rafah region yesterday morning. He would not confirm or deny that the work was connected with the creation of new settlements.

However, he observed, "whatever the Jewish National Fund does results from cabinet decisions." He also added that the JNF is engaged in land reclamation and settlement projects in the region.

BEGIN APPEALS FOR EUROPEAN NEUTRALITY ON MIDEAST

TA041704Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin met this morning in his office in the Knesset with the chairman of the European Parliament, Emilio Colombo. The prime minister asked the chairman to pass on to his colleagues in Europe Israel's request that neutrality be preserved with regard to the political moves in the Middle East and that one-sided statements be avoided. The chairman of the European Parliament replied that he certainly understood the request that countries not involved in the Middle East dispute should not intervene. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports on the meeting:

[Hakohen--live] The talk between the prime minister and the chairman of the European Parliament lasted about 35 minutes. Mr Begin reported to his guest on the telephone conversation he had this morning with President Carter and also presented Israel's peace plan to him, adding explanations to it.

Israel's relations with the nine EEC members were the main topic of conversation. The prime minister told his guest that if the nine market countries did not support Israel's peace plan, as do to varying degrees President Carter and the prime minister of Britain, Callaghan, they they should at least preserve neutrality and silence on the issue. The prime minister said that it would be better for the nine to have refrained from making one-sided statements which caused Israel trouble and endangered its national security. The French interpretation of Resolution 242, which has been accepted by the nine, added the prime minister, and which supports Israeli withdrawal from all the territories, means an endangering of Israel's security.

PERES RAPS BEGIN PEACE PROPOSAL FOR SINAI

TA031949Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, said that the Rogers plan, which was proposed to us several years ago, was better than the Israeli cabinet's present plan for the Sinai. He explained that the U.S. plan proposed that Sharm ash-Shaykh should remain in our hands, but Israel rejected it because it demanded concessions which appeared to be impossible to the cabinet that existed at that time. He added that in his opinion the cabinet has now in fact given up the Rafah salient settlements, but it has not revealed the whole truth to the settlers themselves.

Shim'on Peres was speaking at a seminar for Koor industries employees in Bayt Berl.

CROWN PRINCE LEAVES FOR ASIAN-PACIFIC TOUR

LD042000Y Teheran PARS in English 1830 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, Jan 4 PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi departed for Thailand tonight on the first stage of his tour of three Asian and Pacific countries. Prince Reza will stay in Thailand from the 4th-8th January at the invitation of the crown prince of Thailand, Prince Vajiralongkorn, and will later visit Australia and New Zealand.

The crown prince is accompanied on his trip by his military adjutants, General Abdollah Azarbarzin and Colonel Ahmad Ali Oveisi; ambassador of his imperial majesty the shahanshah and deputy grand master of ceremonies at the Imperial Court Amir Farhang Momtaz; master of ceremonies Sirus Farzaneh; undersecretary at the Ministry of War and head of the civil aviation organisation authority of Iran Mehdi Haj-Moniri; information and press officer at the Imperial Court Kambiz Yazdanpanah; Lt. General Davud Khatami; and Lt. General Jamshid Sadri.

AMUZEGAR ELECTED NEW PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL

LD041642Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The extraordinary congress of the Iranian People's Resurgence Party ended its work a few minutes ago. It elected the new party secretary general, ammended parts of the party constitution and issued a resolution. The congress elected Mr Jamshid Amuzegar as secretary general of the Iranian People's Resurgence Party. Following his election to the post of new secretary general of the party, Mr Amuzegar, in a short speech, thanked the congress members and expressed his appreciation of Mr Mohammad Baheri, the former secretary general.

DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN TEHERAN

LD032135Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Knud Boerge Andersen, Denmark's minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Teheran this evening. A PARS agency report says that the Danish minister is carrying a message from the queen of Denmark for the shah and one from the Danish prime minister for Jamshid Amuzegar, Iran's prime minister.

RASTAKHIZ ARTICLE VIEWS IRAN-U.S. ALLIANCE

LD030004Y Teheran PARS in English 2316 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD

[The Iran-American Alliance--PARS headline]

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--Continuing its coverage of the talks between His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr and President Carter, the newspaper RASTAKHIZ today carried a front page article under the title "The Alliance Between Iran and the United States", in which it quoted from President Carter's reply to the shahanshah's speech of welcome at Mehrabad Airport. President Carter said: "The other issue is bringing back peace to troubled areas of the world and turning back the tide of armaments and dissension. The shah and I hope that peace will come soon to the Middle East and that, as our military alliance remains unshakeable, we may help to reduce the (?increase) of tension and armaments throughout the world."

In RASTAKHIZ's opinion the above statement is truly a proof of the alliance between the two countries in 1946, which continued ever since without interruption. As President Carter said, such an alliance is to the benefit of each one of us.

Geographically our country has a key position, and for a long time, other countries have had their envious eyes upon us. But because of our specific characteristics we have been able to protect this key position. The alliance with Iran is therefore considered vital by the United States. Furthermore, as a result of the strength that Iran acquired after the shah-people revolution, and our policy of national independence and our control over our oil resources, the role of Iran in the alliance between Teheran and Washington has become even more important and vital, and more than at any other time has gained a position parallel to that of the United States. A look at the topics that were covered in the joint communique and in the statements of the White House press secretary make the international importance and status of Iran clear.

These topics are:

--The Middle East and the establishment of peace between Arab countries and Israel.

--The Indian Ocean.

--The Horn of Africa and peace in that region.

--Southern Africa.

--The international economic order.

--International trade and the arms trade.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBSIDY PLAN

LD021512Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] In implementation of the government's protectionist policies, and in order to increase domestic production, the government will pay a subsidy of 80 billion rials toward the price of commodities such as wheat, sugar, meat, vegetable oil, cement and eggs during the current year. The Ministry of Commerce has announced in a report that, in implementation of the shah's orders regarding the centralization of credits and the government's protectionist policies and in order to help increase domestic production, to protect consumers against price fluctuations and to protect against a disproportionate rise in the cost of living, the government will subsidize wheat, sugar, meat, vegetable oil and egg prices in the current year.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN--The Iranian Atomic Energy Organization and the consortium of Japanese companies have signed an agreement for setting up two seawater desalinization plants. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BEGINS VISIT 4 JAN

BK0407007 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 4 Jan 78 BK

[Text] A hearty welcome was accorded to the British prime minister, Mr James Callaghan, when he arrived in Dacca this morning on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh. He is accompanied by Mrs Callaghan.

A 19-gun salute heralded the arrival of the distinguished guest. At the airport President and Begum Zia received the visiting dignitaries.

Among those who were present at the airport to receive the distinguished guests were the vice president, Mr Justice Adbus Sattar, members of the president's Council of Advisers, the chiefs of staff of the Bangladesh Navy and the Air Force, members of the diplomatic corps and high civil and military officials. Schoolchildren presented the distinguished guests with flowers and bouquets. An interservices guard of honor was presented to the British prime minister. The national anthems of the two countries were played as the prime minister [words indistinct].

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Callaghan said he is very happy to visit Bangladesh at the invitation of President Zia. The invitation was extended to him during the Commonwealth summit conference in London last year. The prime minister said the main objective of his visit is to build up a relationship (?with a prominent) member of the Commonwealth. He said during his talks with the president and other Bangladesh leaders he will discuss areas for [words indistinct].

The airport ceremony over Mr and Mrs Callaghan, accompanied by President and Begum Zia, drove in a ceremonial motorcade to Banga Bhavan, where the distinguished guests are staying. Our representative says the entire route from the airport was tastefully decorated with buntings and national flags of the two countries. A number of ceremonial arches had also been put up. [Words indistinct] visiting dignitaries as the motorcade passed by.

In the afternoon Mr Callaghan will visit Savar, where he will lay a wreath at the national memorial for martyrs. He is having formal talks with President Zia and some of his advisers in the evening.

Our diplomatic representative understands that the talks will cover a wide range of subjects, including measures to promote bilateral trade relations. They are expected to discuss the problem of Bangladesh immigrants. International and regional issues of common concern, including the peace initiatives in the Middle East and South Asian region, are also expected to come up during the talks. Our representative further understands that Mr Callaghan's visit will result in better understanding and increased cooperation between the two countries.

Meets With Zia

BK0511067 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 5 Jan 78 BK

[Text] President Zia and Mr Callaghan held formal talks for 2 hours at Banga Bhavan yesterday. They met exclusively for 1 hour and 50 minutes.

After the meeting, a spokesman of the British delegation told newsmen that the talks covered a wide range of subjects, including bilateral regional and international issues.

Today Mr Callaghan is visiting the immigration section of the British High Commission in Dacca. He will also visit the Adamji Jute Mill at Narayangan and enjoy a cruise on the River Sitalakhya. In the afternoon, Mr Callaghan will attend a civic reception at the Ramna ground. Later, he will address a press conference.

POLITICAL LEADERS URGE ZIA TO RESTORE RIGHTS

BK291715Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 29 Dec 77 BK

[Text] Dacca, Dec 29 (AFP)--Various political leaders in a meeting here yesterday urged President Ziaur Rahman to immediately restore democratic rights of prople to fill the "political vacuum" existing in Bangladesh.

The politicians in a labour front convention also spoke of a three-point proposal as a precondition for establishing democratic rights, including restoration of full political activities now barred under martial law regulations, announcement of a firm date for holding general elections and restoration of parliament sovereignty.

On the proposed formation of a political front by President General Ziaur Rahman, which he announced in his victory day broadcast on December 19 last, the politicians, including Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Mr. Mashiur Rahman, and Maulana Abdul Matin, put up different views.

Mr. Mashiur Rahman, leader of late Maulana Bhashani's National Awami Party, welcomed the proposed national front of President Zia and said if the front could help establishing Democracy, "there is no harm in joining it." He, however, emphasised that three basic points agreed by politicians of 12 political parties at a meeting on December 18 last should be accepted by President Zia.

Elderly politician Mr. Ataur Rahman urged President Zia to transfer power to elected representatives of the people, who alone, he pointed out, have the right to rule the country.

INDIA

REDDY CLAIMS CONGRESS MAJORITY; GANDHI FACTION SPLITS

BK020924Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Congress president, Mr Brahmananda Reddy, has said that the Indian National Congress headed by him continues to be the lawful body of Congress men. He said this in a statement in New Delhi today condemning the decision taken at the convention of the Indira faction calling itself the real Congress. Mr Reddy said he has the overwhelming majority of Congress men in general and AICC [All-India Congress Committee] member, Pradesh [state] Congress committees and members of parliament in particular.

Mr Reddy described the claim of the Indira faction as preposterous and said it is unconstitutional and illegal. He said Mrs Gnadhi and her advisers are dividing the party. He asserted that not even 30 percent of the AICC members are attending the convention.

The Congress high command is considering seriously action against Congress men who are taking part in the Indira group convention in volation of the Congress president's directive. Mr Brahmananda Reddy had discussions with state leaders.

Meanwhile, a resolution declaring the Indira faction as the real Indian National Congress was unanimously adopted at the convention being held in New Delhi. The resolution, moved by Mr Kamlapati Tripathi, says Mrs Gandhi will be the Congress president. It gives her the authority to reorganize the party at all levels in consultation with the working committee members, who recently resigned and with other Congress men. The resolution claims that the Indira faction represents the Indian National Congress. The names of the AICC members attending the convention were not made available to newsmen even today. On the second day of the convention today the attack on the Congress high command became more strident. The audience was much thinner this morning with more than half the chairs on the pandal [specific enclosure] lying vacant.

Gandhi Resignation Accepted

EX0216547 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpts] The Congress working committee, which held an emergency meeting in New Delhi this evening, adopted a resolution on (?these lines): It was warned that any Congress man continuing to be associated with the new party headed by Mrs Gandhi will face disciplinary action and expulsion from the Congress.

The working committee accepted the resignation of Mrs Gandhi and seven others from the committee. They resigned a few days ago. It authorized the president to take necessary steps to fill the vacancies. According to the resolution, the committee had desisted from any action so far in the hope that better sense would prevail. The working committee also took a serious view of the indiscipline and the antiparty attitude of the four Congress Pradesh [state] Congress Committee [PCC] presidents who attended the convention and authorized Mr Reddy to take appropriate action against them.

The organizers of the convention announced before its conclusion tonight that 347 AICC members attended it. This was later challenged by the AICC General Secretary Mr V.B. Raju. According to him, only 149 out of a total strength of 664 members took part in the convention which was backed by vast financial resources. Mr Raju gave a statewide breakup. Among the prominent participants in the convention were the members of the working committee who recently resigned from the committee, four former chief ministers--Mr Zail Singh of Punjab, Mr Ram Lal of Himachal Pradesh, Dr Jagan Nath Mishra of Bihar and Mr N.D. Tiwari of Uttar Pradesh. A former PCC chief of Gujarat, Mr Daji; the leaders of the Congress legislature party in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab; Mr Devraj Urs, until recently chief minister of Karnataka; and a former union minister Mr J.B. Patnaik of Orissa were also present.

The Congress working committee meeting, which reviewed the situation this evening, was attended by eight members besides the president, Mr Brahamananda Reddy. The working committee authorized Mr Reddy to set up election committees in the states that are going to the polls next month. It will meet again to review the developments.

Soon after the news of the split was received, photographs of Mrs Indira Gandhi were removed from the AICC headquarters this evening. They were replaced by Mahatma Gandhi's pictures.

Gandhi Appoints State President

BK041615Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi has nominated presidents of a number of Pradesh [state] committees of the breakaway group led by her. The nominees include Mr Ratubhai Adani for Gujarat, Mr Kedar Pandey for Bihar, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai for Uttar Pradesh, Mufti Mohammad Sayed for Jammu and Khasmir and Mr M.M. Chowdhury for Assa.

Mr Boota Singh, who had been nominated general secretary of the breakaway group Saturday, has sent a telegram to the election commission stating that Mrs Gandhi has been elected president of the Congress. As such Mr Reddy has no locus standi. The election commission should do nothing in the matter.

Mr Kamalapati Tripathi today urged Congress MP's to march along with the breakaway group which he described as a real Congress. Mr Tripathi criticized the role of the Congress opposition in the parliament and said its overall performance made it look like an appendange to the Janata Party.

Some workers of the breakaway group reportedly made a bid to capture the souvenir committee office of the AICC [All-India Congress Committee] at Raisina Road in New Delni today. They were led by Mr Boota Singh but their attempt was thwarted by Congress supporters.

Rival Groups Clash

BK051036Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 78 BK

[Text] There was a clash in New Delhi this morning as prominent members of the breakaway group of the Congress tried to take possession of the Congress Party premises at No 5 Raisina Road. Students and youth leaders who were inside the building resisted this attempt. Following the clash, the policy arrested several persons including Mr Harcharan Singh Josh, acting president of the youth Congress; Miss Jaymala, president of the student Congress; and Mr Brijmohan Bhama, general secretary of the National Students Union owing allegiance to the Indira group.

As a preventive measure a heavy police contingent has been deployed in the area. Mr Bhim Singh, secretary of AICC [All-India Congress Committee] legal aid committee, said that Mr Vasant Sathe, Mr Narayandutta Tiwari and others (?came) to the building and tried to take forcible possession. According to Mr Bhim Singh, he has been deputed by the Congress president to prevent such forcible seizures.

PAKISTAN

HAQ GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC SITUATION

BK020000Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpts] The chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, addressing a crowded press conference in Rawalpindi this afternoon presented a detailed review of the economic situation in the country and announced several fiscal measures to improve the budgetary position. He also announced some other important measures relating to the extablishment of the Islamic state, dissolution of the Hyderabad tribunal [trying leaders and workers of defunct National Awami Party of Mr Wali Khan], release of more than 11,000 political prisoners, the present position of the process of accountability of politicians, and immediate granting of proprietary rights on government plots to slum dwellers.

He said the economic performance of the country in the last 6 years has been very disappointing and the average annual growth rate was about 4 percent as against an actual 7 percent growth recorded by the economy in the last decade. It touched bottom last year when there was hardly any growth, in fact, per capital income declined by 2 percent. The country had been living beyond its means, there had been a very heavy budgetary deficit and the balance of payment gap had been widening. The high level of deficit financing had resulted in serious inflationary pressures. He said the monetary expansion had occurred at an average rate of about 20 percent per annum over the period 1973-77, while the annual growth rate was only 4 percent. This inevitably exerted pressures on prices.

The chief martial law administrator said immediate measures to correct this situation had become unavoidable. These decisions though difficult were taken in the larger national interest. The measures were designed to control inflation, provide relief to consumers in certain significant commodities, insure greater utilization of already installed industrial capacity, promote domestic capital goods industries, curb luxurious consumption, and strengthen the balance of payment position besides mobilizing additional resources for development.

The chief martial law administrator said these fiscal measures will provide additional revenue of 1.735 billion rupees and fully cover deficit financing of the budget, estimated at 1.58 billion rupees. He said it was the intention of the government to restructure deficit financing during the current fiscal year to the level originally designated.

In regard to prices, he said he had appointed a committee to review this issue. However, if satisfactory results are not achieved from these efforts, then he will fix the ceiling on profits which will be enforced through martial law. He said the government is doing everything possible to maintain prices of essential commodities at a reasonable level. He said that in order to supply wheat at a concessional rate, the government is spending 1.47 billion rupees and a large quantity of wheat is being released from government warehouses to maintain a supply of wheat flour to the markets.

In regard to the establishment of an Islamic principle state, he said that the Supreme Court and high courts have been empowered to declare void all laws which are found to be repugnant to the holy Koran and Sunnat. The Law Ministry was now examining all laws which are yet to be brought in conformity with Islam. He said the recommendations of the Islamic ideology council would be enforced as law. He said the collection and distribution of Islamic welfare taxes were being examined and would be introduced as soon as a practical shape is given to them.

The chief martial law administrator also announced the dissolution of the Hyderabad special tribunal and the pardon of the accused in the case as a general amnesty. He said this step has been taken in the larger national interest so that past bitterness is forgotten and we can move toward reconciliation and mutual (?trust).

Referring to the process of accountability, he said he himself or a committee composed of martial law administrators will determine who of the politicians were fit to remain in national politics. This will complete the political aspect of the accountability. As regards other actions, special tribunals will make decisions about them.

He said out of total 980 statements [on assets and liabilities filed by politicians], 358 statements have been examined. He said the work to give final shape to the process of accountability will begin from the 15th of this month and will be completed within 2 or 3 months.

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